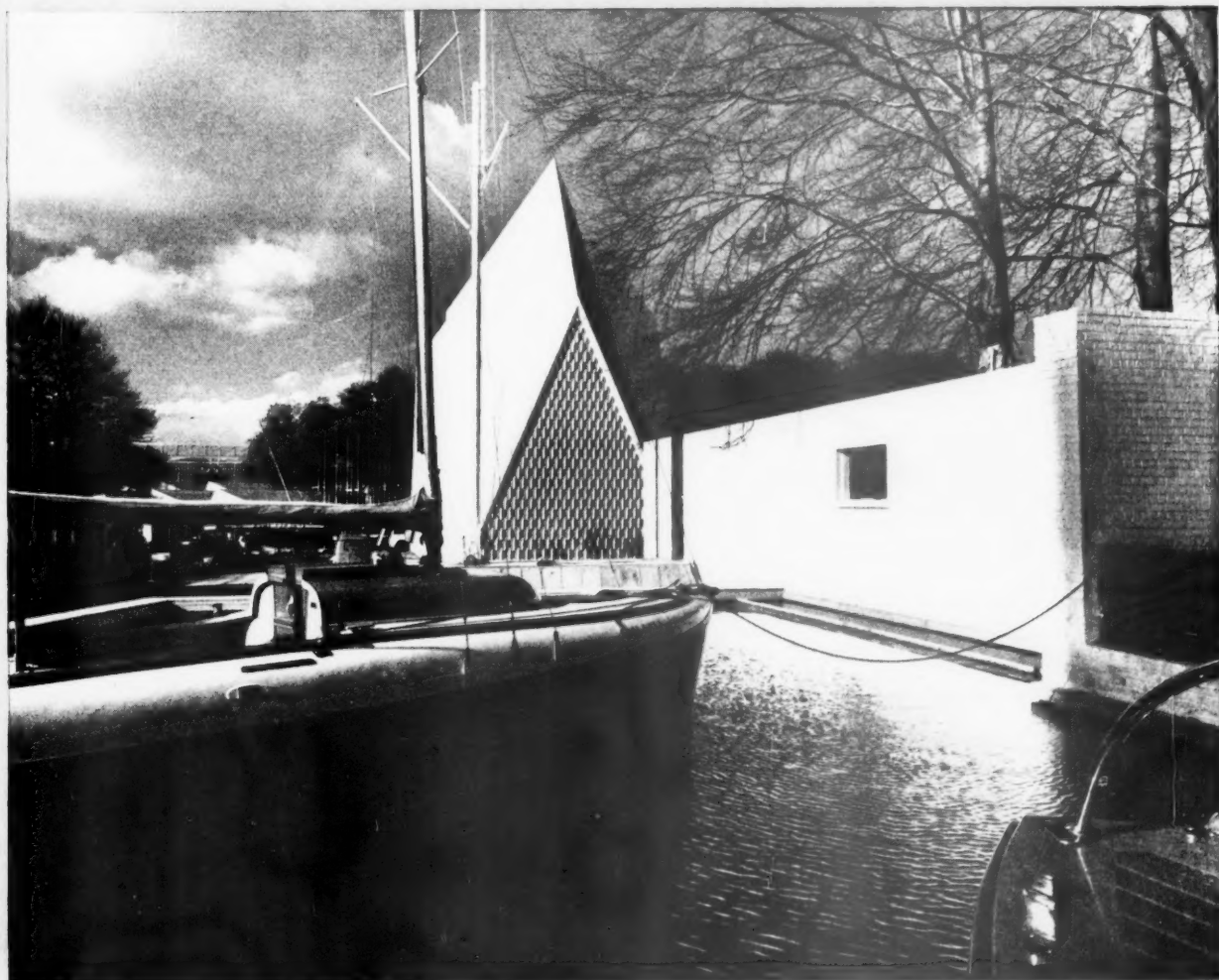


THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

66 PORTLAND PLACE LONDON W1 · THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE



*Brussels Exhibition: Hall of Tradition, British Government Pavilion
Architects: Howard V. Lobb, C.B.E. [F], and John Ratcliff, O.B.E. [F]*



COLT AND THE NEW HORIZONS

*The Kemsley Power Plant, Bowater Paper Corporation.
Architects: Farmer & Dark.*

*Colt Equipment: 32 S.R.C.3080 Ventilators.
Consulting Engineers: Ewbank & Partners Limited.*

Just as the squat, smoke-belching power houses of the industrial revolution have given way to power plants of such orderly austerity as those that serve the Bowater Organisation, so has the demand for more positive control over the ventilation of these buildings grown stronger. The provision of effective, controllable ventilation called for a revolution in ventilator design. The precise, aerodynamic lines of the Colt SR Extractor, shown above, epitomise the achievements of that revolution.

In this photograph of the Bowater Power Plant at Kemsley near Sittingbourne in Kent, 32 Colt S.R.C.3080 Controllable Natural Extractors are

utilising to the full the free power of the wind and thermal currents to change the air in the building 10 times in each hour. The effect of this is to ensure the maintenance of temperate, fume-free conditions demanded by modern industry, and without which maximum output can never be achieved.

The careful attention to detail that went to the formulation of this, and of the other similar systems at the Bowater Mills in Northfleet and Ellesmere Port, is common to every ventilation scheme, large and small, that Colt undertake. The technical service of the Advisory Staff is always available without charge or obligation. Let Colt solve YOUR problem.



Send for Free Manual on Colt Ventilation to Dept. AF 21/6

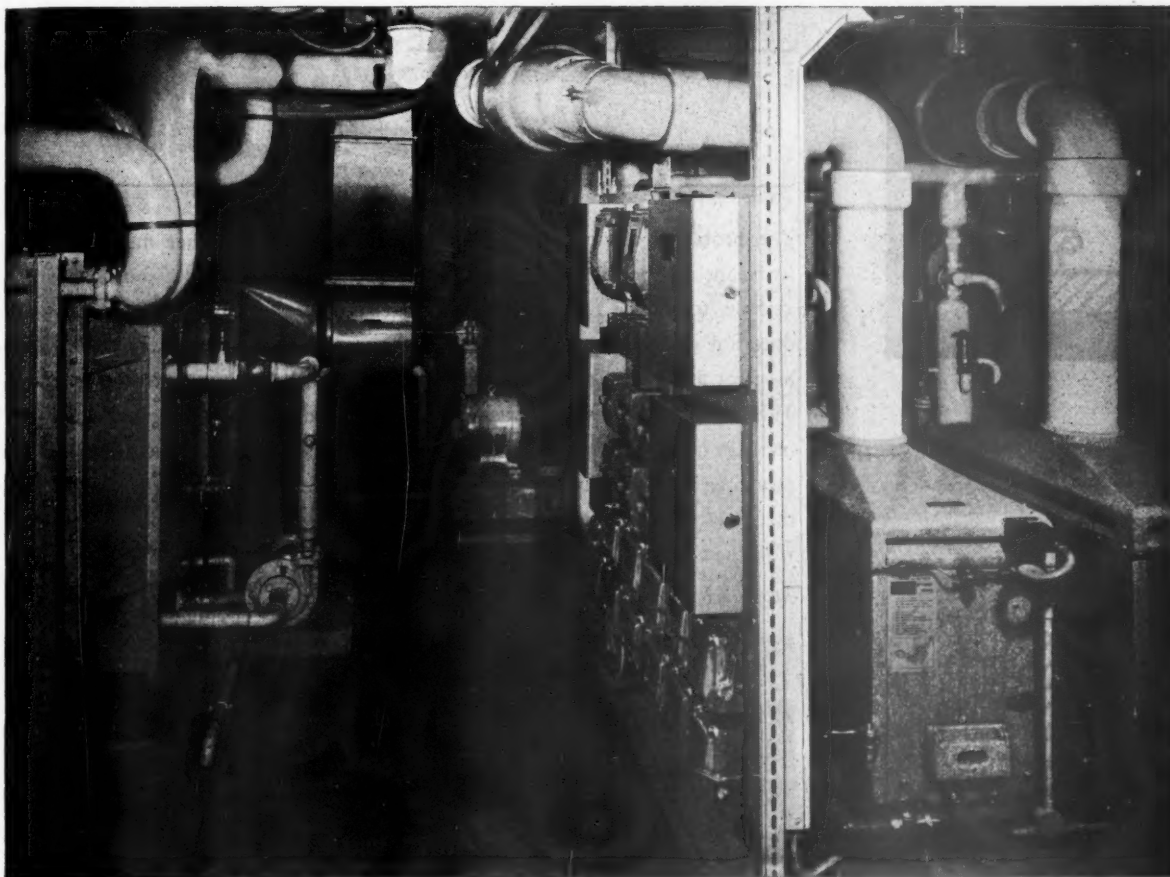
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G. 995A



Architects : Waterhouse & Ripley

A high velocity system of air distribution ducts radiates from this compact plant chamber in the new West End offices of the Hanover Bank.

The plant was designed and installed by

G.N. HADEN & SONS
LTD



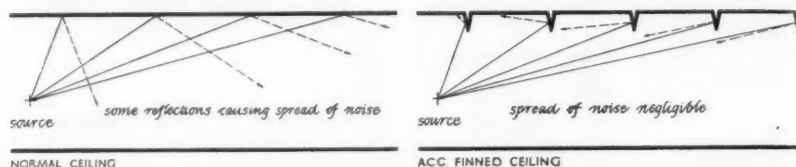
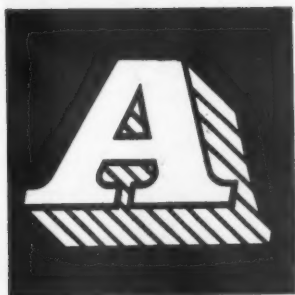
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CASEBOOK NO. 2.



The problems of noise from Accounting machines and other mechanical aids to business is becoming more and more prominent. The use of sound absorbent ceilings to reduce the general noise level is now common, but very often this does not go far enough. To obtain the best results it is necessary to introduce as great an area of absorbent as possible and to bring it near to the machines. This finned ceiling, which was specially designed by A.C.C., results in a 40% increase in surface area and considerable reduction in the spread of noise. The measured noise levels in these offices was lower than in a room with fewer machines and no special ceiling. The operators expressed complete satisfaction with the conditions.

Photograph by Colliers (Dover St.) Ltd.



Equity and Law Life Assurance Society new offices at Haslemere (Architects, Brocklehurst, Cooper and Williamson, A.A.R.I.B.A.) were equipped with finned acoustic ceilings in the accounting and addressing machine rooms. A.C.C. also provided suspended ceilings in asbestos insulation board and demountable partitions to the Architects' special requirements.

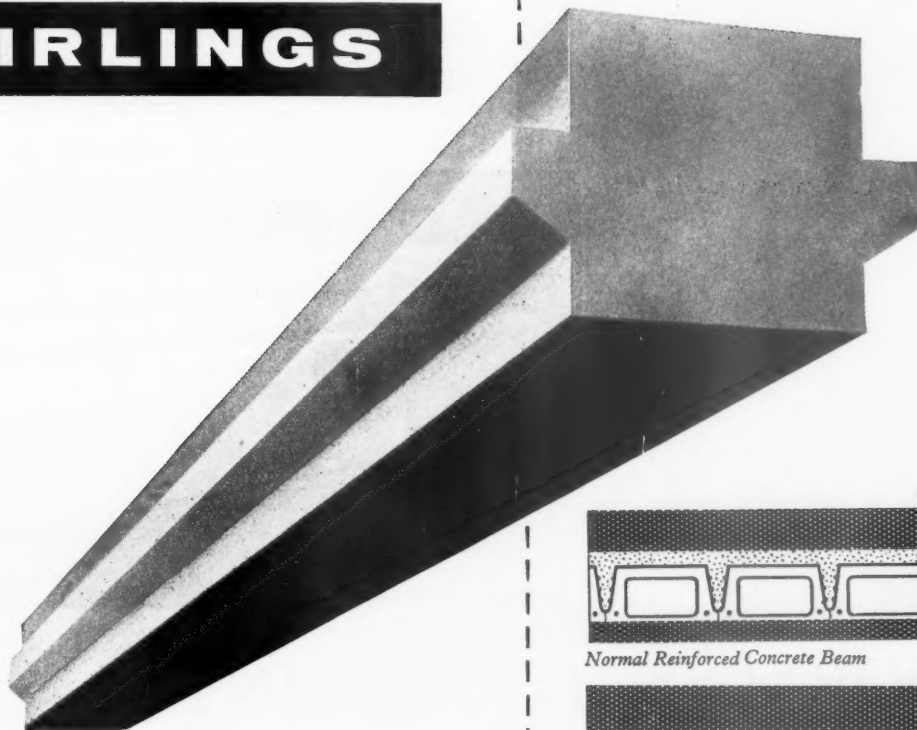
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or FLOORS
consult**

GIRLINGS



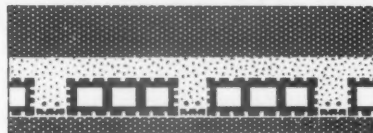
*By Appointment
Suppliers of Ferro-Concrete
to the late King George VI*



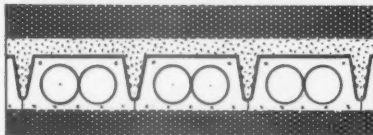
Regard Girling's Advisory Service as *your* service. Any time you have a problem relating to Flooring or Roofing, our technical representatives will gladly call on you, at your bidding. They will be only too pleased to describe to you the relative merits, in relation to any given circumstances, of reinforced concrete beams, prestressed concrete beams, and hollow tile reinforced concrete floors. Last (but by no means least) we shall be happy to supply the concrete answer to solve your problem.



Normal Reinforced Concrete Beam



Hollow Tile Reinforced Concrete Floors



Prestressed Reinforced Concrete Beam

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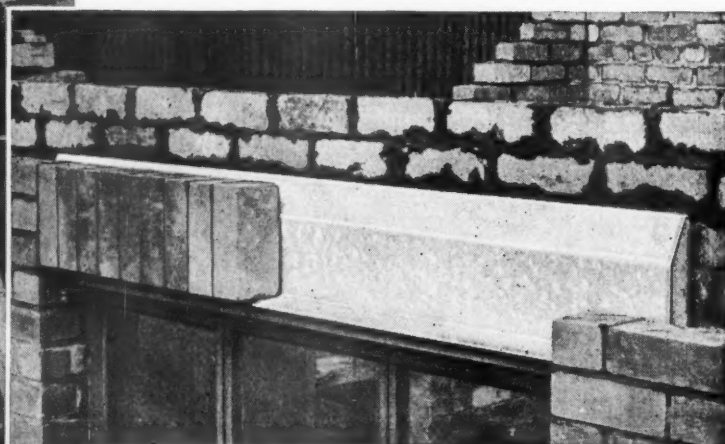
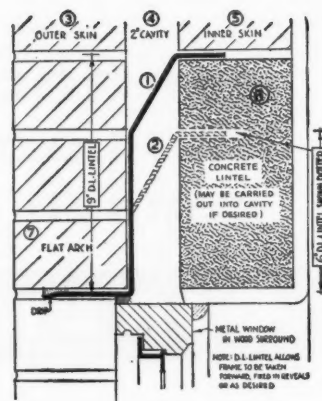


SECTION SHOWING TYPICAL DETAIL

- (1) 9 in. Dorman Long Lintel
- (2) 6 in. Dorman Long Lintel (shown dotted)
- (3) Outer skin
- (4) Cavity
- (5) Inner skin
- (6) Inside concrete lintel (carried out into cavity if so desired)
- (7) Flat arch

The wide 'turn-in' of the Dorman Long Lintel allows the cavity to be varied from 2 in. to 2½ in. in width.

Patent No. 694214



THE DORMAN LONG LINTEL

Combined Angle Arch Support & Dampcourse Tray
IN HOT-DIP GALVANIZED STEEL, FOR USE AT THE
HEADS OF OPENINGS IN EXTERNAL CAVITY WALLS

Comes on site to required length ready to fix.

Large saving in site labour costs.

Cannot be damaged in cavity cleaning.

THE DORMAN LONG LINTEL has only to be placed into position over the head of the opening, and without delay the work carries on.

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DORMAN LONG (Steel) LTD., Sheet Dept., Middlesbrough
or from district offices at London, Birmingham, Manchester,
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DORMAN LONG

'KEY cut my drain laying costs by 28%'

says Major J. H. HACKETT

Director of Hackett (Builders) Limited, Norwich

'A job which would have taken several weeks by traditional methods was completed in under a week with Key Pitch Fibre pipes', says Major J. H. Hackett, of Hackett (Builders) Limited. 'In this time, the entire main sewage pipe to a new estate was laid by a team of only three men. Labour costs for laying and jointing were cut from 1s. 2d. to 1½d. per foot run. The need for concrete bedding was completely eliminated. With performance at least the equal of best quality materials used by former methods, Key pipe gave me an overall saving of at least 28% on the job'.

Key Pitch Fibre pipes, which were supplied to Hackett (Builders) Limited by Robert R. Ruympt & Son Ltd., Norwich, through B. Finch & Co. Ltd., Essex, (Key distributors), are cutting costs on all the building sites of this company. They are also providing a far more effective answer to the problems of an area with exceptionally bad conditions of loose earth and subsidence. This modern form of drainage could bring equivalent or even greater advantages in performance, economy and speed of laying in your own building projects.

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Key pipes comply with the requirements of B.S. 2760, 1956, and carry the B.S.I. 'Kite' mark.

NO CRACKING THROUGH SETTLEMENT

The resilience of pitch fibre pipes eliminates cracking under normal conditions of earth settlement, making bedding concrete unnecessary.

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2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in. sizes. 4 and 6 in. diameters are supplied in 8 ft. lengths, other diameters in 5 ft. 6 in. lengths. Easily coupled to conventional drainage fittings.



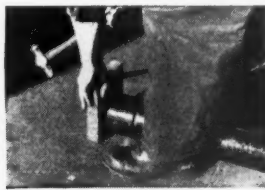
Major J. H. Hackett handling Key Pitch Fibre pipe on one of the building sites of his company.

SPEEDING THE JOB—CUTTING THE COST

500 feet per hour is a modest rate for laying Key Pitch Fibre pipes, and the simple jointing system ensures 'all weather' laying. With no cement to dry out, completed drains can be tested and trenches back-filled immediately. When you add laying costs to pipe costs, together with other site advantages, KEY means an overall economy compared with other drainage systems.



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**IN ANY
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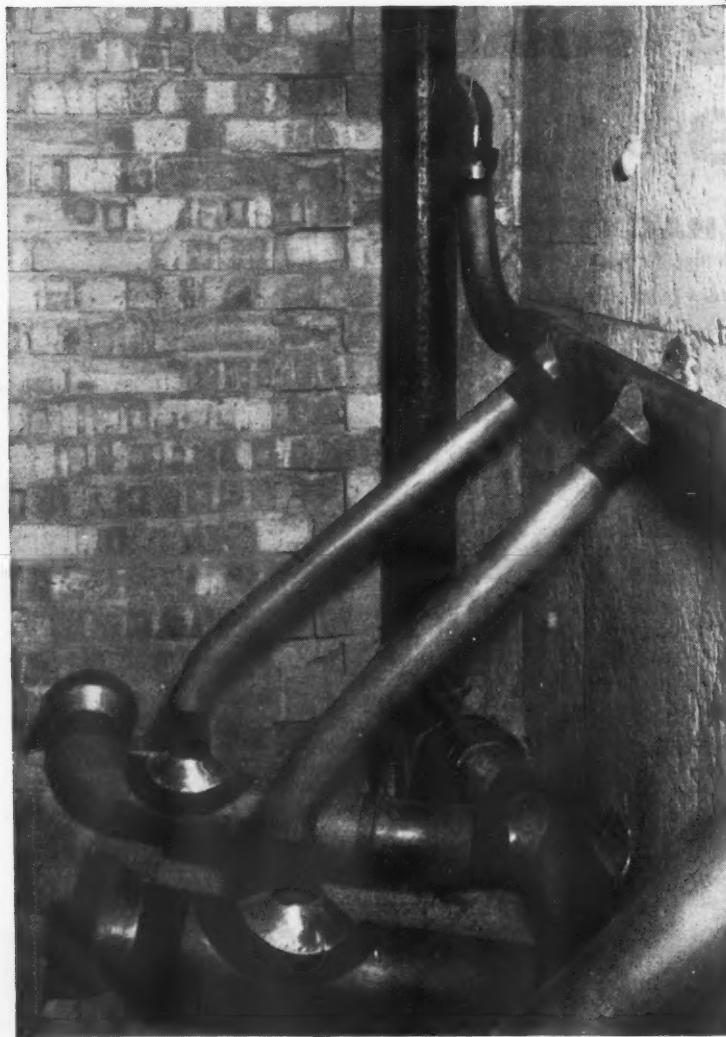
PITCH FIBRE PIPES

A product of the **KEY ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED** Larkfield, Near Maidstone, Kent. Telephone: Maidstone 7461 and 7233



For Compact Duct Plumbing

lead pipe



In the hands of a skilled plumber lead pipe can be bent and deviated to provide efficient disposal plumbing housed in a more confined space than is practical with other pipe materials. The flexibility of lead branch connections facilitates the accurate fixing of an appliance and also takes up any subsequent movement that would otherwise cause a fracture.

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The Association's Technical Information Bureau will gladly help with problems on the use of Lead Sheet and Pipe in building work. Details of the main uses are given in a series of Information Sheets and Bulletins, which can be obtained by applying to the Association.

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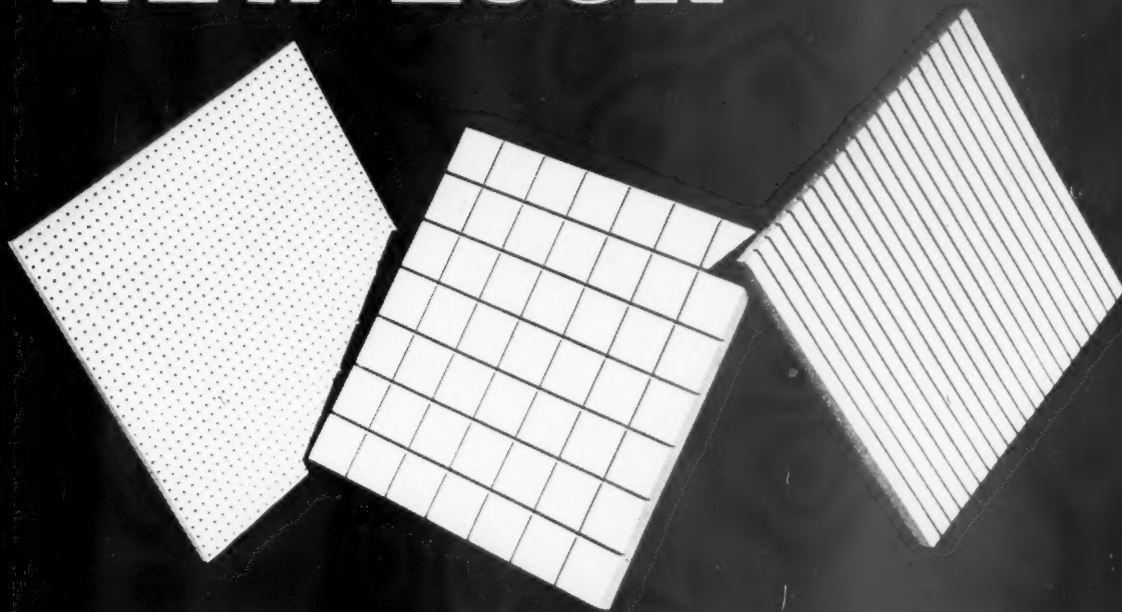
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JOURNAL

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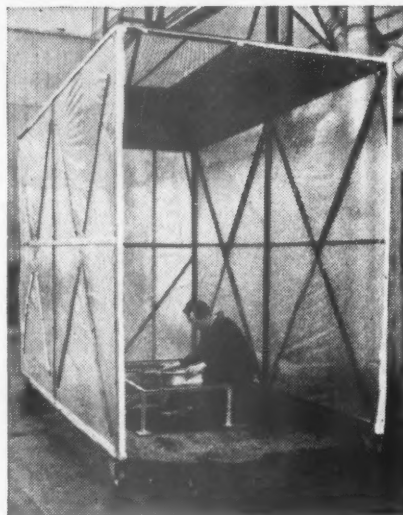


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Design for today



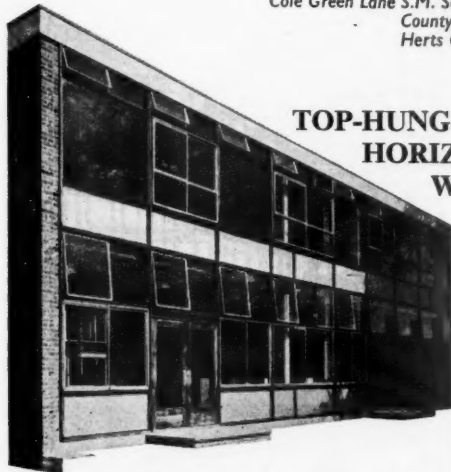
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*incorporated into Eliot Bank L.C.C. School
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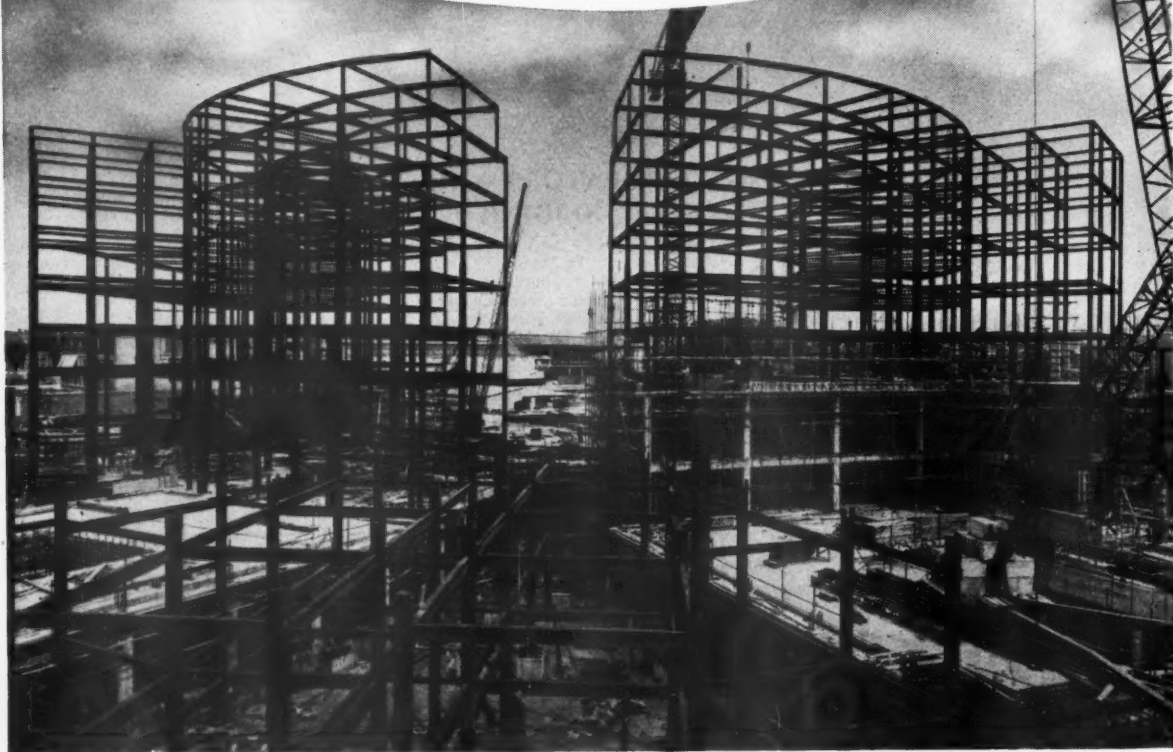
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A.58



The new building for the Institute of Marine Engineers in Fenchurch Street. Architects: Ronald Ward & Partners

**Galvanised steel windows and reinforced
concrete pavement lights**

by

LUXFER  **LIMITED**

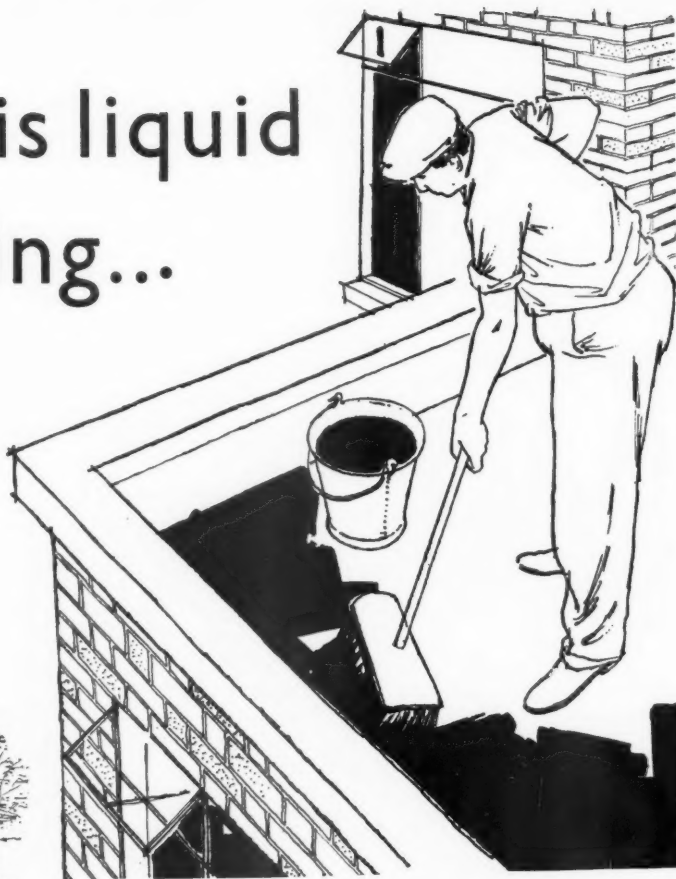
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for years



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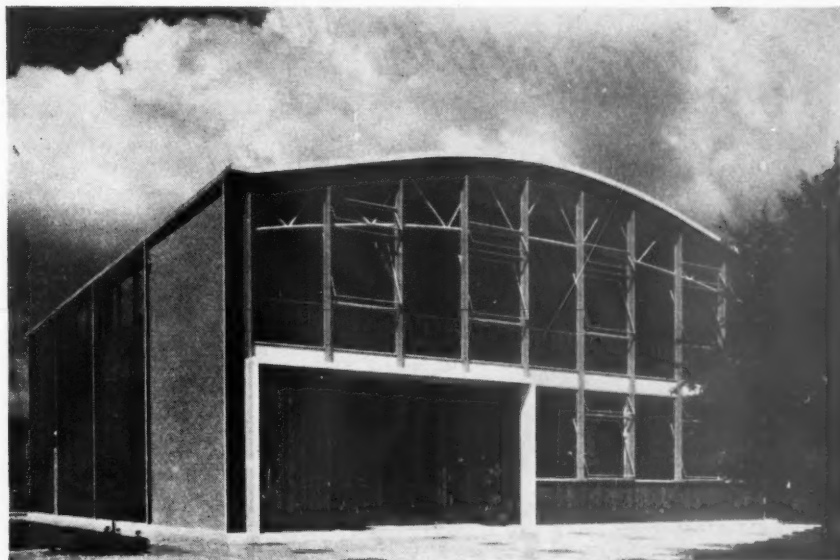
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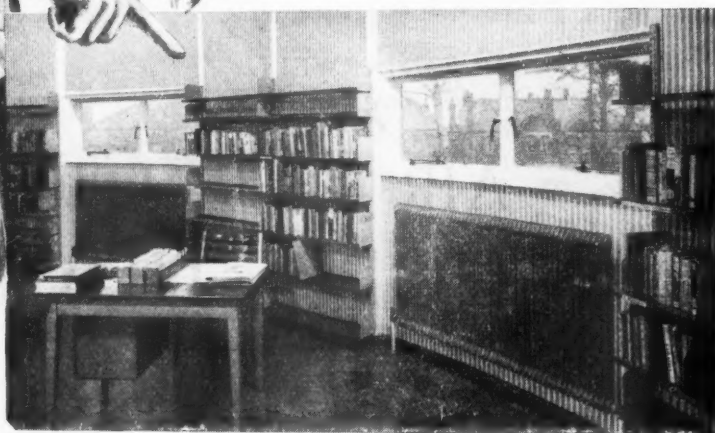
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***Ye canna get more
economical heating
for the wee bairns***

*Stelrads in the Library
of a L.C.C. school.*



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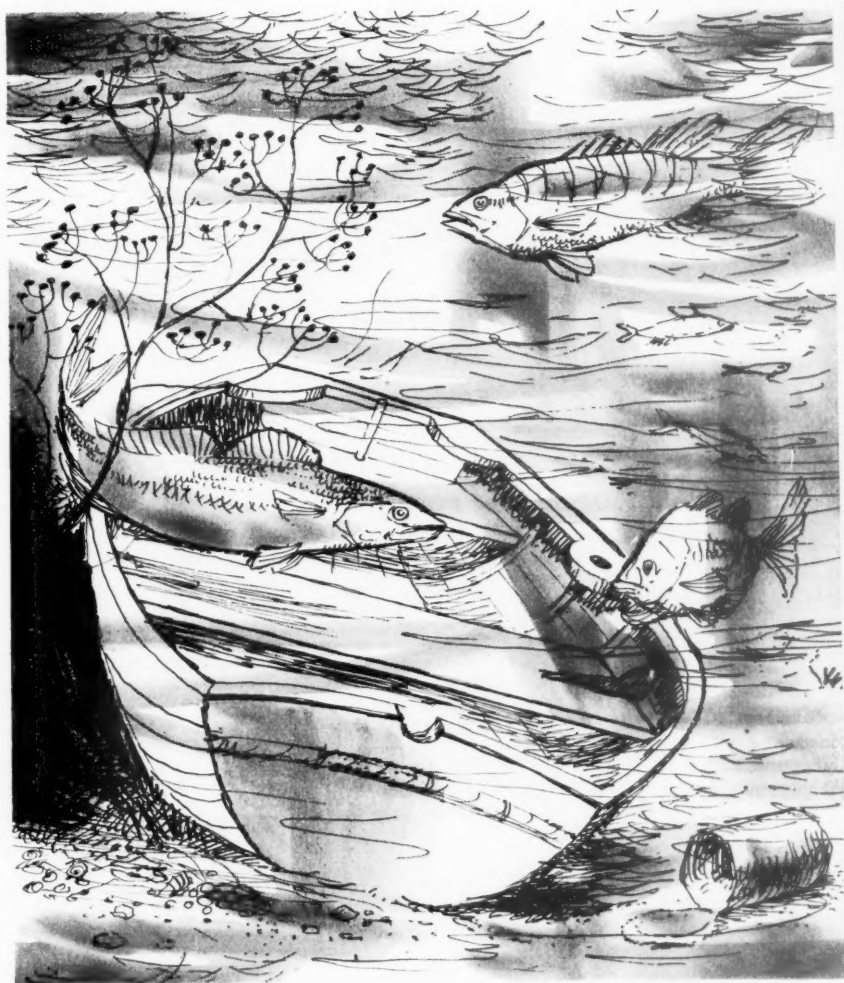
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MANDERLAC Alkyd Enamel dries quickly to a hard surface that stays bright, and keeps its protective powers for years. It is easy to apply and easy to clean, covers well even on sharp edges and is so lustrous that it 'looks wet when it's dry.'

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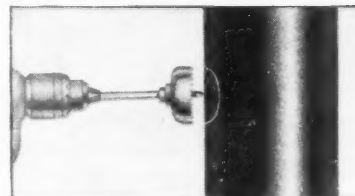
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- Complete flexibility in planning and erection
- Reduction of costs of labour and materials
- Simple to install . . . highly satisfactory in service

Available as single units or double units (for two waste connections entering main stack directly opposite to each other). Designed for use in conjunction with the standard range of "Everite" Asbestos-Cement Soil Goods $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and 4" nominal diameter, they provide a simple and effective means of making a multiplicity of gas tight junctions at the approved angle of $92\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ between various water pipes and main stack.

They cost considerably less than

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...from Canada's vast forests
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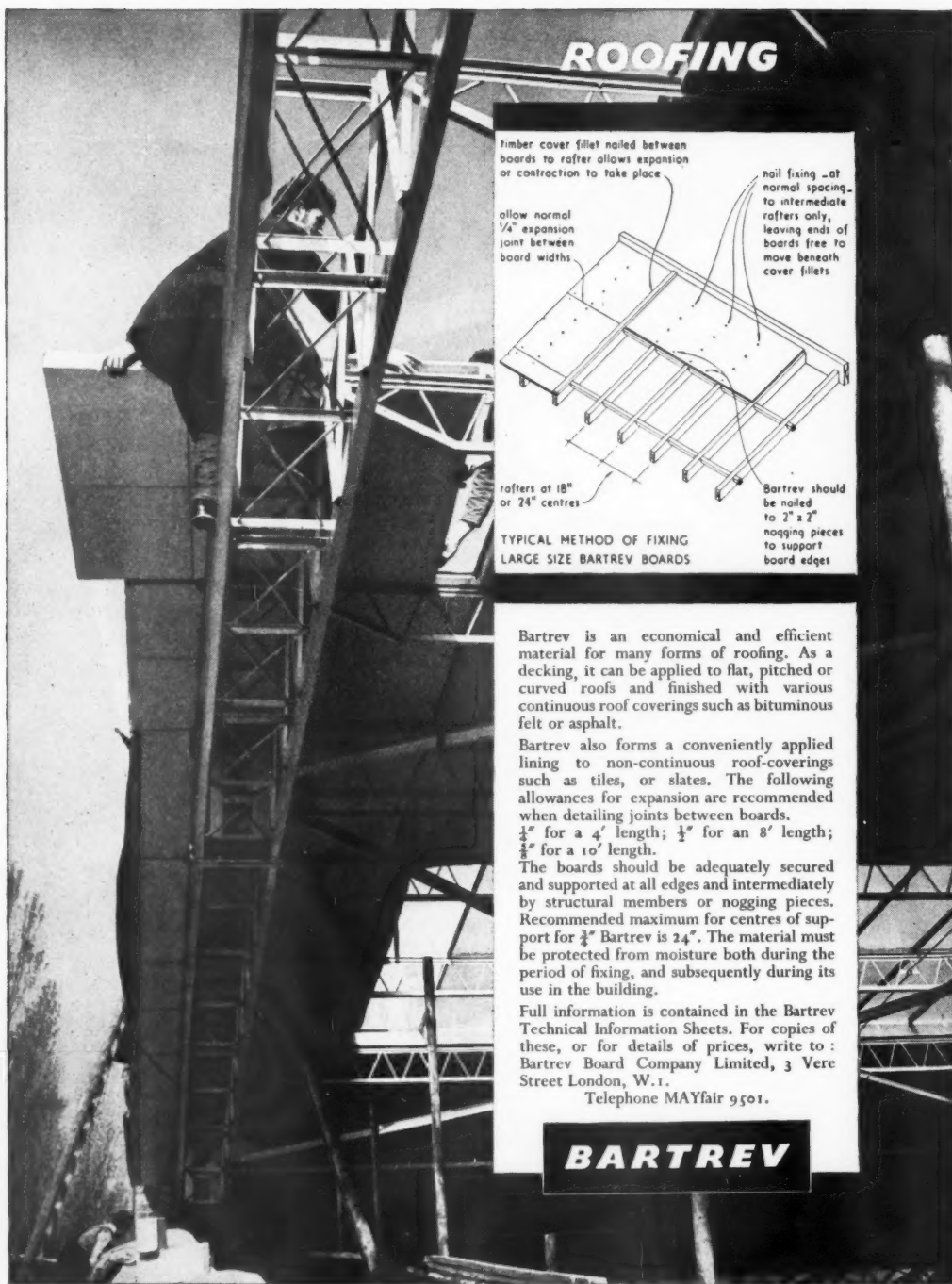
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ROOFING

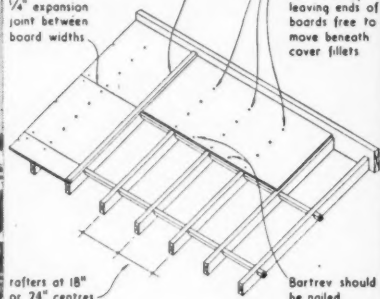
timber cover fillet nailed between boards to rafter allows expansion or contraction to take place

allow normal $\frac{1}{4}$ " expansion joint between board widths

rafters at 18" or 24" centres

nail fixing - at normal spacing - to intermediate rafters only, leaving ends of boards free to move beneath cover fillets

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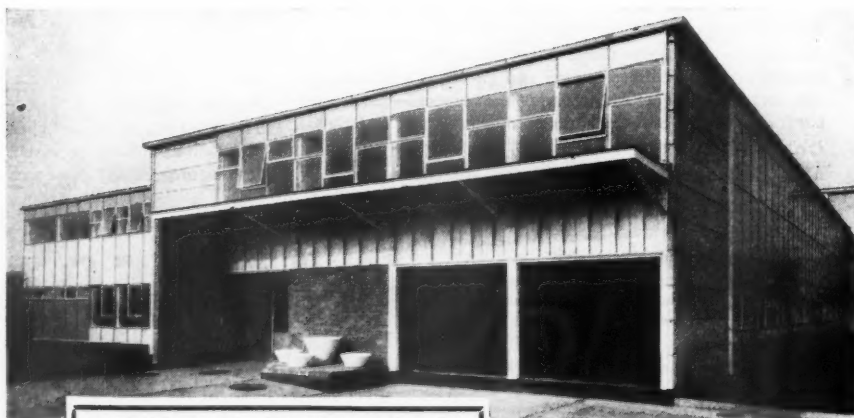
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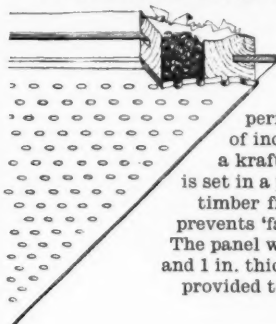
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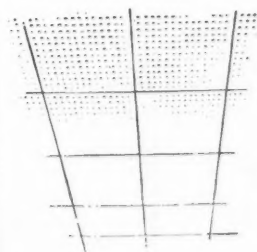
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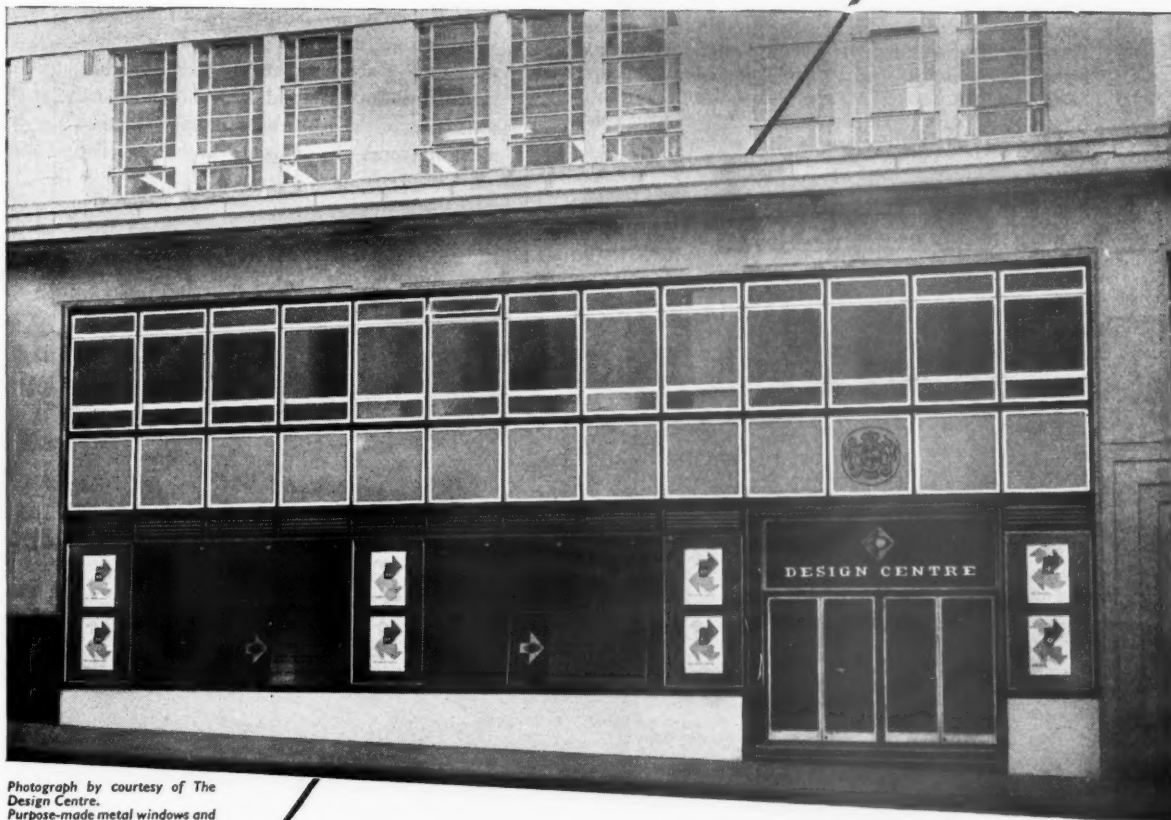
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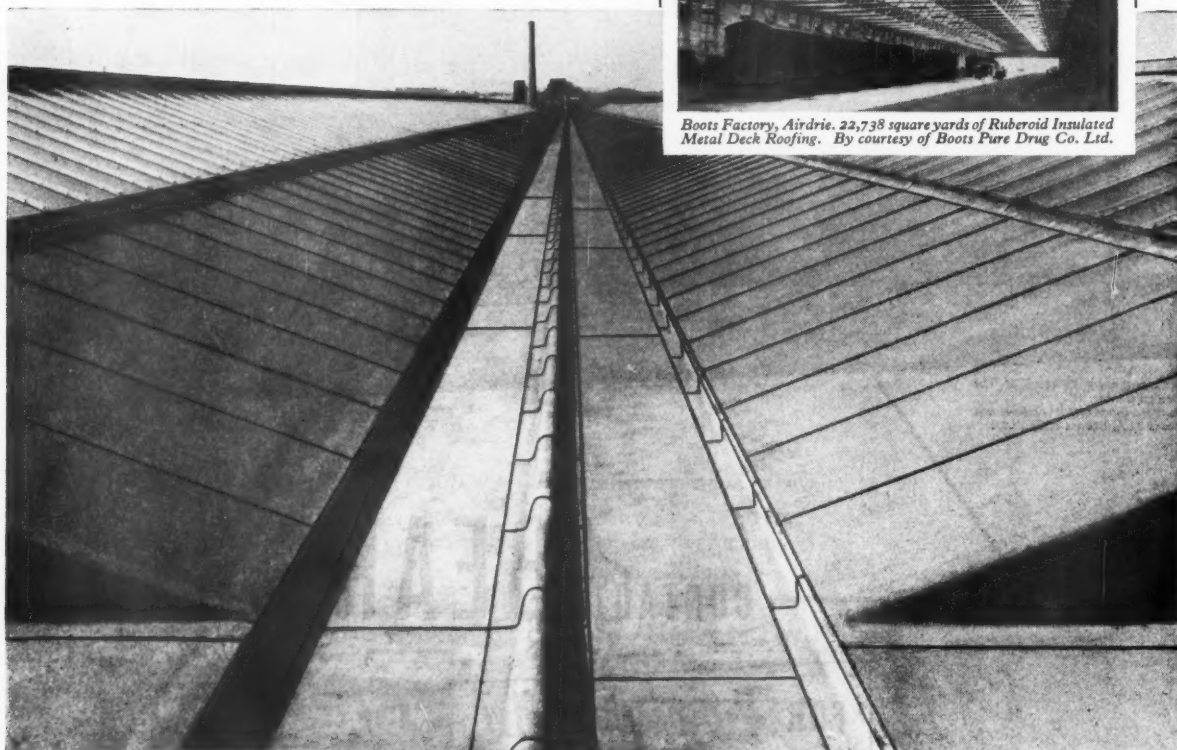
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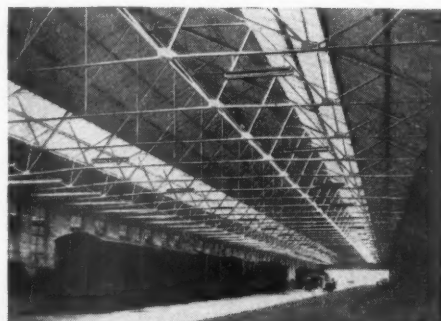
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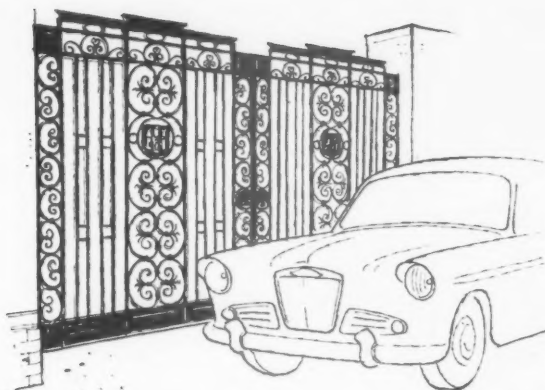
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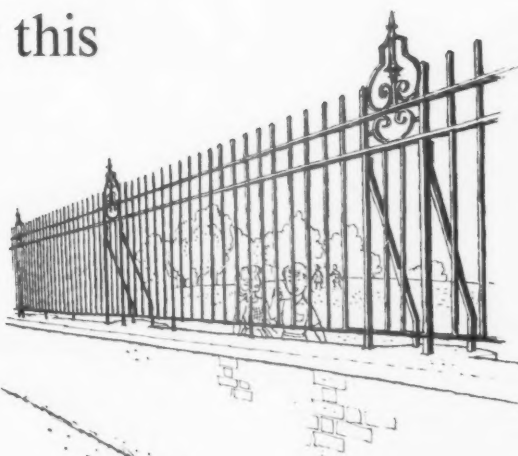
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on Messrs. Harris Labus Ltd. warehouse, Tottenham
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R.31b

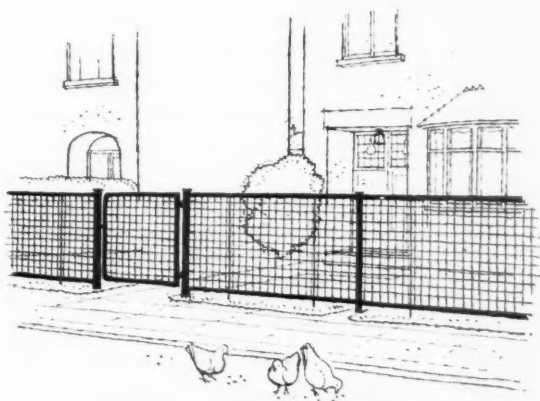
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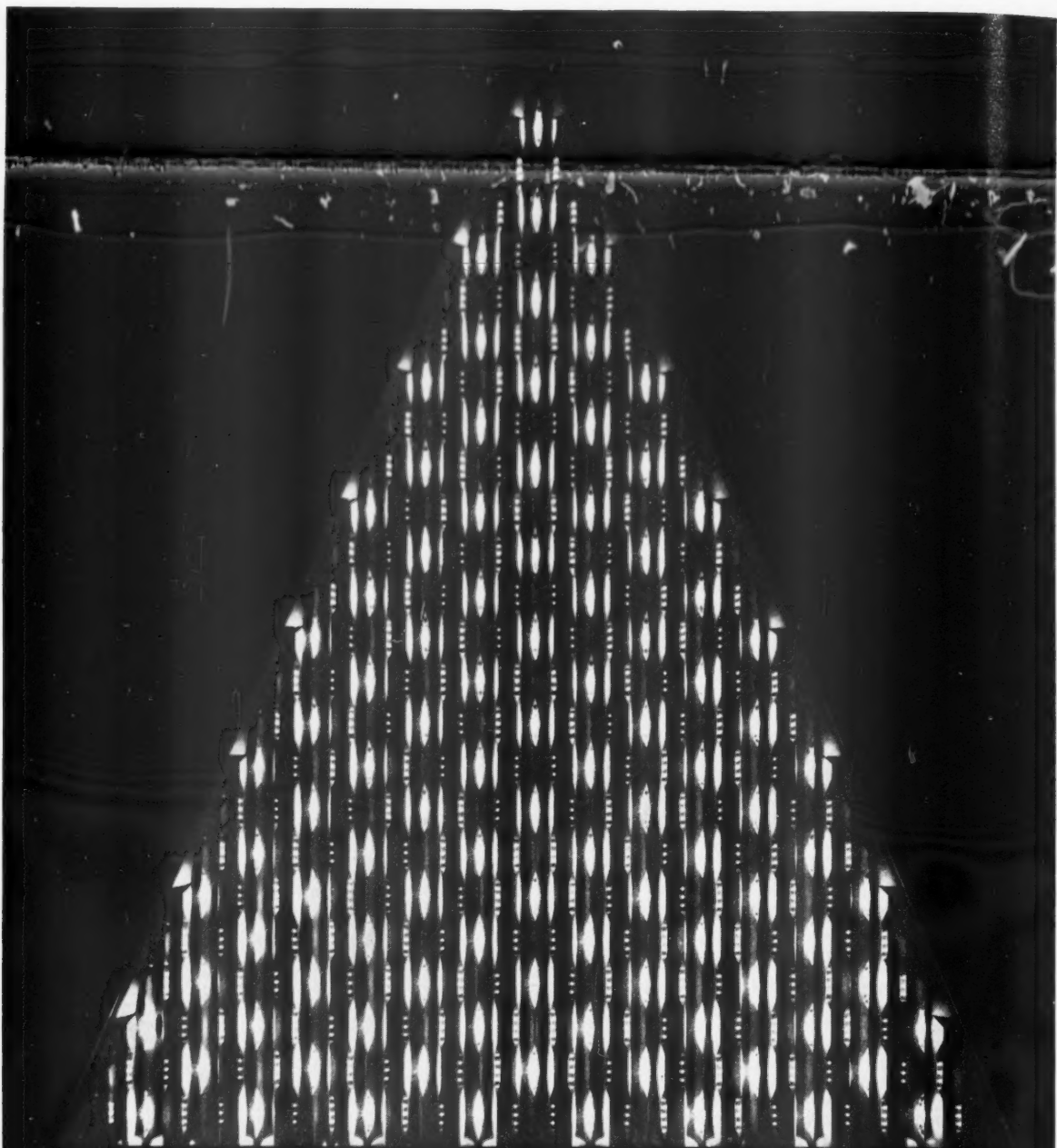
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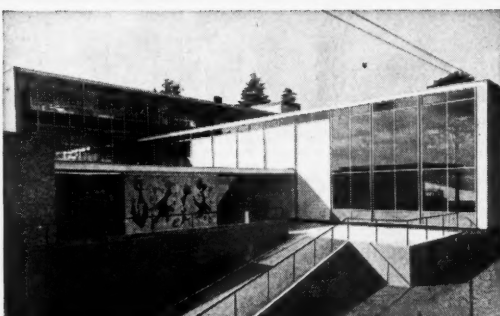


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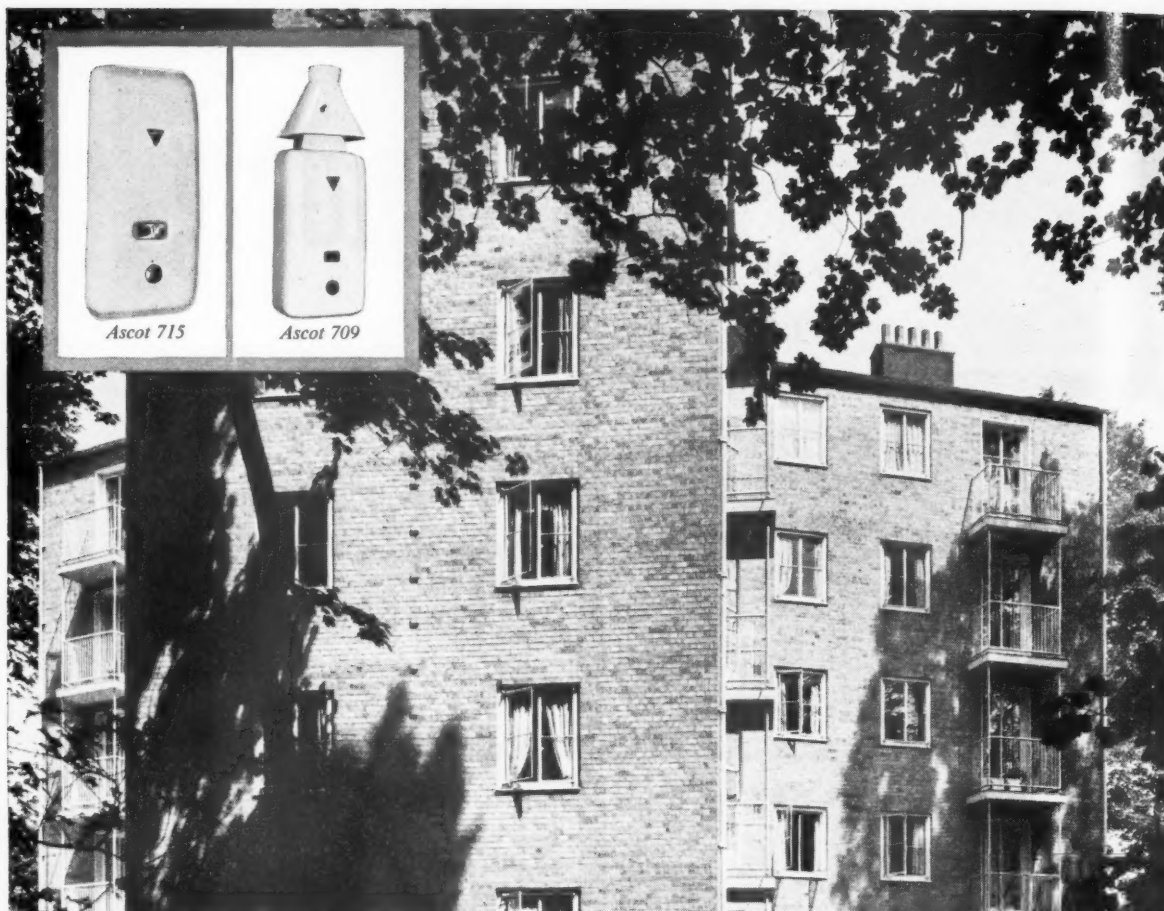
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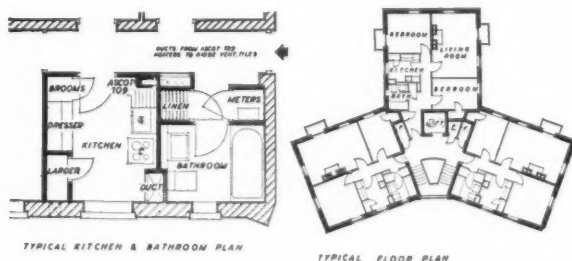
Chulsa Estate, Beckenham: View of Block 3 from the South.

ASCOT IN NEW HOUSING (6)

Beckenham Borough Council's Chulsa Estate in Crystal Palace Park Road, Beckenham, comprises 172 flats and maisonettes in 13 blocks. Ascot multipoint instantaneous gas water heaters were chosen to give a comprehensive hot water service to each of these since the flexibility and compactness of Ascot installa-

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JUNE 1958 THIRD SERIES VOL. 65 NUMBER 8 THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

EDITORIAL

Local Government Architects' Society

At their meeting in April the Council decided that the R.I.B.A. should provide its good offices and accommodation for an inaugural meeting of the new Society. This has now been arranged for 6.30 p.m. on Friday 20 June, at the R.I.B.A. All registered architects and corporate members of the R.I.B.A. employed in Local Authorities, New Town Development Corporations, Public Utilities and Hospital Boards are invited to attend.

The agenda will include the following:

- (1) Formal proposal to establish the Society.
- (2) Appointment of temporary Honorary Officers and Executive Committee.
- (3) Terms of reference for the temporary Honorary Officers and Executive Committee.
- (4) Fixing of the initial subscription or entrance fee.

There are several issues to be thrashed out in detail, which the meeting may want to refer to their Honorary Officers and Executive Committee. Typical of these issues are: the name of the Society; the range of members to be admitted to it; subscription rates; relationship with the R.I.B.A.; a draft constitution; negotiations with Nalco and others for promotion of the suggested 'Professions Panel'; periodical publication of news and keeping in touch with members; regional organisations, if any, and means of stimulating interest in the provinces. Discussion on 20 June is, therefore, likely to centre upon item (3) of the agenda.

Architects concerned are particularly asked:

- (a) To come to the meeting; and, if possible, to give notice of their intention to do so in advance so that the right accommodation for the meeting can be provided. (A collective answer from each office will do very well rather than individual letters.)
- (b) To send in the names of any members whom they want to nominate as Honorary Officers. It should be borne in mind that the burden of work for these Honorary Officers is bound to be heavy in the early and formative stages of the Society.
- (c) To agree with colleagues in their office upon one man whom the Honorary Officers can regard as their 'contact' in that office over the next few months; and to send in his name.

In each case communications should be addressed to the Honorary Organising Secretary, Local Government Architects' Society, c/o the R.I.B.A., 66 Portland Place, W.1.

Volume of Work Done by Architects

What proportion of the total volume of building work comes within the province of the architect? And how much new work is coming into architects' offices? A new inquiry to be launched shortly by the Institute is designed to help find the answers to these questions. At the beginning of July, one in every five firms of private architects will receive a form asking for figures of (a) the volume of building work certified in the three years 1955, 1956 and 1957, for various types of buildings, and (b) the number and estimated cost of new projects for which the firm has been appointed as architect during the first half of 1958.

The inquiry into new work [(b) above] will be repeated at quarterly intervals, so that up-to-date information is available about building intentions, particularly on the part of the private client. The architect is generally the first in the building chain, and is in a key position to provide information at the earliest possible stage about future prospects for building. A successful inquiry, bringing together this information in a statistical form, would be most valuable to the Institute both in determining its own policies and in putting it in a stronger position to advise the Government when any change in investment or credit policy seems to be needed. A fuller description of the inquiry will be given in the July issue of the JOURNAL.

The inquiry into the volume of building work handled by private architects [(a) above] is being supplemented by an analysis of building consents given at the planning and bye-laws stage. Planning offices are being asked to co-operate in this investigation which will cover work done by all types of architects' offices, and also building work done without the help of the architect.

All this may seem a plethora of inquiries, particularly to those who were caught up in the sample inquiry into architects' incomes.¹ But architects are the only people who can provide this factual information needed by the Institute as a firm basis for its work towards an improvement in the standing of the profession.

¹ If you were sent this questionnaire and have not completed and returned it, please do so now—it is not too late. The response has been very good, but every one missing reply represents a loss of information from five architects (because this is a sample inquiry) and so reduces the accuracy of the results.



The New R.I.B.A. President

Mr. Basil Spence, O.B.E., A.R.A., A.R.S.A., is to be the President for the session 1958-59. He succeeds Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, M.A., who retires from office on 30 June. Although the Council elections for next session have not yet taken place Mr. Spence's nomination to the presidency is unopposed.

Mr. Spence was born in 1907 and was educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and at the Architectural Schools of Edinburgh and London University.

He was R.I.B.A. Recognised Schools Silver Medallist in 1931 and Pugin Student in 1933 and the same year was elected an Associate of the R.I.B.A. In 1932 he won the Arthur Cates Prize tying with Robert H. Matthew (now Professor of Architecture at the Edinburgh School of Architecture). He spent a year in the office of Sir Edwin Lutyens assisting in the preparation of drawings for the Viceroy's house at Delhi. He served in the Army from 1939-45 and was twice mentioned in dispatches.

Mr. Spence became a Fellow of the R.I.B.A. in 1947. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1948, was elected an Associate of the Royal Scottish Academy in 1952 and an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1953. Mr. Spence acted as adviser to the Board of Trade for the British Industries Fair in 1947, 1948 and 1949. In 1951 he won the competition for the new Coventry Cathedral and the same year he received the Festival of Britain Award by the Council for Architecture, Town Planning and Building Research for his housing

estate at Sunbury-on-Thames; in 1952 he received the Saltire Society's Award for his design for fishermen's houses at Dunbar in East Lothian.

Before the war Mr. Spence designed several large country houses, and was concerned with the Scottish Pavilion for the Empire Exhibition of 1938 which he designed in conjunction with T. S. Tait. In the same year he designed the Imperial Chemical Industries Pavilion for the Glasgow Exhibition.

He acted as Chief Architect for the following exhibitions: Britain Can Make It Exhibition held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1946; Enterprise Scotland Exhibition at Edinburgh in 1947; The Scottish Industries Exhibition at Glasgow in 1949; Heavy Industries Exhibition (Festival of Britain). He designed the Sea and Ships Pavilion, South Bank, in 1951.

Mr. Spence has built a school in Stirlingshire, two for the West Riding of Yorkshire, a school and a shopping centre at East Kilbride, a comprehensive school at Sydenham, and is working on a school at Wick, Scotland, and St. Martin's School, near Shrewsbury.

He has been appointed planning consultant to advise on the planning of the central area for Edinburgh University. He has also been appointed consultant architect for the development plan for Southampton University, Nottingham University and Basildon New Town housing. Mr. Spence's other university work includes new physics buildings for Liverpool and Durham Universities, agricultural sciences and chemistry buildings for Nottingham University, engineering building and a women's hall of residence for Southampton University, library, staff house and chapel for Edinburgh, a department of natural philosophy for Glasgow University and the physics and chemistry buildings for Exeter.

Mr. Spence is also the architect for ten churches, two in Leicester, three in Coventry, two in Sheffield, two in Edinburgh and one in Manchester. Other work includes housing at Hatfield and Basildon New Towns, Slough Town Hall, Hampstead Civic Centre, a factory for Scottish Agricultural Industries at Leith, an office block for Thorn Electrical Industries in Upper St. Martin's Lane, London, and a new operating theatre block at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. He has also been commissioned to prepare plans for the new head office for Scottish Widows in Edinburgh, a building for Queen's College on the banks of Cambridge and a new building for the Faculty of Virology for the University of Glasgow.

In 1955 he was appointed the first Hoffman Wood Professor of Architecture at Leeds University, an appointment he held until 1957.

Mr. Spence was elected a member of the R.I.B.A. Council in 1953. He was appointed a Vice-President in 1954 and in 1956 was appointed Hon. Secretary.

He is married and has two children and his recreations are painting and sailing.

Design of Teaching Laboratories

Copies of the report of the Symposium on the Design of Teaching Laboratories in Universities and Colleges of Advanced Technology, held on 14 March, are available from the Secretary, R.I.B.A., price 7s. 6d. each (post free).

Royal Academician

Sir Howard Robertson, M.C., D.Litt.(Reading), S.A.D.G., Past President, has been elected Royal Academician.

Visit of Russian Architect

Mr. Arkady Mordvinov [*Hon. Corr. Member*], one of the leading architects of Moscow and responsible for a large amount of housing and other developments in that city, was recently in the United Kingdom on a three-week visit as the guest of the British Council. He was entertained at the R.I.B.A. by the President and Secretary before he left on a tour of modern architecture in Great Britain. Mr. Mordvinov stated at a reception in his honour at the British Council that he considered British achievements in the field of new techniques some of the most advanced in the world. His own work includes the rebuilding of Gorky Street in Moscow, the Hotel Ukraina, at which delegates to the July I.U.A. Congress will stay, and an extensive new housing area to the south-west of Moscow.

The Late Grey Wornum

A Memorial Service for Grey Wornum, C.B.E. [F] will be held on 11 June at noon in St. James's, Piccadilly.

All his friends and fellow architects who wish to honour his memory are very welcome.

British Architects' Conference

It is not possible to add extra editorial pages to the JOURNAL without increasing the cost of postage which, with wrappers, is already about £9,000 a year.

This being so, only the Conference Papers, circulated before the meeting, are printed this month, and the report of the discussions and social events will appear in the July JOURNAL.

To make room for the verbatim report of the A.G.M. and Sir Leslie Martin's report on the Oxford Conference on Architectural Education, some regular features have also had to be held over.

As we go to press, it is learned that this year's Annual Discourse is being given by Mr. R. Buckminster Fuller of Dymaxion fame. His address, with illustrations, will appear in the JOURNAL at the earliest opportunity.



The President of India, Dr. Prasad, presenting Mr. L. M. Chitale, F.I.I.A. [F] with the Gold Medal awarded for his Reserve Bank Buildings, Nagpur. The title of 'Padmashri' was also conferred on Mr. Chitale. The medal is awarded annually.



Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, M.A., D.C.L. From the portrait by A. R. Middleton Todd, R.A.

Miss Solly

Miss B. N. Solly retired from the Secretaryship of the Architects' Benevolent Society at the end of March after twenty years' service.

Mrs. I. M. O'Sullivan has been appointed Secretary by the Council of the A.B.S.

It is hard to imagine the A.B.S. without Miss Solly and she will be much missed, especially by those old people who were fortunate enough to be on her visiting list.

The JOURNAL wishes her many happy years of retirement during which it is hoped she will keep in touch with her many friends, and they with her.

Miss Solly has accepted nomination for election as an Honorary Associate.

Design Pays Symposium Report

Mr. Henry Brooke, Minister of Housing and Local Government, opened the whole-day Symposium on 2 May at the R.I.B.A. Over 200 architects and builders attended what was generally considered a most successful meeting. A full report with illustrations will be available very shortly at 5s. post free on application to the Secretary, R.I.B.A.

R.I.B.A. Diary

THURSDAY 12 JUNE, 7 p.m. (Refreshments 6.30 p.m.). Architects' Christian Union. Forum on the subject 'Christ and the Building Industry'.

TUESDAY 17 JUNE, 6 p.m. General Meeting. Council Election Results. *The Problem of Technical Information*, by Eric L. Bird, M.B.E., M.C. [A].

MONDAY 30 JUNE, 6 p.m. Library Group. Annual General Meeting.



Brussels Exhibition: British Industry Pavilion and The Britannia Inn. Architect: Edward D. Mills and Partners [F/A]. Photos: Edward D. Mills.

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JUNE 1



The 120th Annual General Meeting of the R.I.B.A., 6 May 1958

Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, President, in the Chair

THE PRESIDENT: I have to present the Report of the Council and Committees for the official year 1957-1958 and to move that the Report be received.

The Chairmen or other representatives of all the Committees whose reports are appended to the Council's Report have been asked to attend this meeting so as to be in a position to answer any questions which may arise in connection with these reports.

Mr. Basil Spence (Hon. Secretary): Mr. President, may I second the motion.

The President: I now propose, Ladies and Gentlemen, to run through the Annual General Report, the Report of the Council for the past year, and before doing so I would like to say that I hope there will be full discussion and that members will not hesitate to express their views.

I will turn to the preliminary statement on page one of the Annual Report.

Mr. A. W. Cleeve Barr [A]: Mr. President, I did wish to move an amendment to the motion dealing with the financial statement and to the extent to which the Council is out of touch with the ordinary members. Will you indicate at what point it would be appropriate to move that amendment, a copy of which I have already sent to the Secretary?

The President: When we come to the section in the Report dealing with finances I think that would be an appropriate time at which to discuss the matter.

Has anyone anything to say on the summary of the work of the Institute?

Page 2, headed 'The Council', deals with a variety of subjects.

Mr. R. D. Butterrell [A]: Mr. President, I wish to raise on that a matter concerning the Bye-laws. May I have your guidance as to when I should raise that.

The President: Would you care to raise it now?

Mr. R. D. Butterrell: I wrote to the Secretary about this matter last week and this was originally under Bye-law No. 60. At the conclusion of this Bye-law it is stated that the Council shall be bound to take a poll under the provisions of this Bye-law at any time on receipt of a written requisition signed by not less than 40 Fellows and 40 Associates and 40 Licentiates and such poll shall be taken not less than six weeks after the delivery of such requisition to the Secretary.

I feel that the requirement of signatures of 40 Fellows, 40 Associates and 40

Licentiates bears no regard to the present membership of the Institute. According to the figures for 1958, if we are to have the signatures of 40 Associates on the proportion of members we would then have 6 Fellows and about 6½ Licentiates. Following on that, as you know there will be no more Licentiates of the Royal Institute, so in a matter of years if something is not done about this Bye-law it will be impossible for the members of the Institute to do anything through this Bye-law.

Before I make a proposition that the Council should reconsider these Bye-laws in order that they are adjusted to bring them into proportion with the present membership of the Institute, another point has arisen and that is that there is no machinery—and this I think is an extremely serious point and I wonder how many members here tonight realise this—within the Institute for members to call a Special General Meeting. The only people empowered to call a Special General Meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects are the Council themselves. I have been a member of a number of bodies in my time but I think I can say this is the only body of which I know that has no Bye-law or provision empowering members to call a Special General Meeting to discuss some matter which is very important.

I should like to propose first of all that the Bye-law is amended as I suggested to bring these figures into line with the present membership of the Institute. I should also like to propose that the Council should consider that a new Bye-law should be made or that there should be an amendment to an existing Bye-law to make some provision for facilities for any number of members to call a Special General Meeting if they should so wish, the number of members being agreed. I should like to make that a formal proposition if I may.

The President: In reply to those two points which have been raised, the question of Bye-law 60 and the question of an individual calling a Special General Meeting or asking for one to be called, those matters will be considered by the Council.

I would just like to mention that of course today an individual can ask a member of the Council to get busy and call a Special General Meeting. The Council is pretty widely representative. It has recently been reconstituted.

Mr. Cleeve Barr: May I add one point to that? In most professional bodies of this kind it is not the prerogative of the Council

to change the subscription without reference to the membership. I am a member of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants and subscriptions there can only be changed by reference to the members and by a two-thirds majority vote. Would the Council take into account that Bye-law also so that in future changes have to be referred to the membership?

The President: I cannot give any undertaking on behalf of the Council but I can give you an assurance that they will consider the matter.

Mr. M. Brawne [A]: What assurance do we have that these matters being put forward for consideration will be dealt with satisfactorily for the membership of this meeting?

The President: Are there any further comments?

[Several members asked for an answer.]

Mr. Bryan Westwood [F]: Please do not answer. This is meant to be a serious meeting, surely.

Mr. M. Brawne: My question was intended to be serious. We are here to get some answer from the Council, not to be put off with some vague assurance that it will be considered at some vague and indeterminate date.

Mr. Thurston Williams [A]: On a point of order, would it not meet the wishes of the meeting if you would accept the proposal that an amendment could be put and then the meeting could put a point of view of which the Council could be made aware?

The President: We will comply with the request of the meeting and undertake that the Council considers it, but unfortunately legally we are not able to accept a resolution.

A Member: Could you explain why not, Mr. President?

The President: It is the wording of the Bye-law.

A Member: Can we alter the Bye-laws?

Mr. Thurston Williams: Can we not consider an amendment to the Report? If an amendment to the Report is made, that can be carried here, can it not?

The President: The Bye-laws cannot be altered at all unless there are two resolutions at special meetings, and the consent of the Privy Council has to be obtained.

Dr. Ronald Bradbury [F]: On a matter of order, surely the amendment is not that

the Bye-law should be amended but that the Council should take the necessary steps to amend.

The President: That can be accepted.

Mr. L. O. Woodward [L]: You have given an assurance from the Chair that the points that have been raised will be considered by the Council. If there was a time of, say, three months in which these matters could be considered by the Council, would it not meet the wishes of this meeting if the results of the consideration by the Council were published within 3-4 months in the JOURNAL of the Institute?

The President: Are there any further observations on that point?

A Member: Yes, I would like to second that suggestion.

Mr. G. B. Oddie [4]: On a point of information, perhaps you would enlighten us on this point of order. As I understand it, there is a motion before the meeting that this Report be received. Is it not in order that the meeting may if it wishes make an amendment to that motion, and if an amendment is proposed is it not in order that the meeting should debate it?

The President: Have you an amendment to suggest?

Mr. G. B. Oddie: I understood that there was an amendment proposed, the precise terms of which I cannot recall, which I understood to be in effect an amendment saying that we should like the Council to consider how to so amend the Bye-laws that the number of people required to call a Special General Meeting may be changed.

The President: That could be accepted if that is the sense of the amendment.

Mr. R. D. Butterell: I did originally make a proposition that we should amend Bye-law 60. This body is unique as far as I know in a large professional body that it has no mechanism for calling a Special General Meeting. I think that is a very bad thing and I think it merits serious consideration.

The President: It will be considered.

Mr. R. D. Butterell: I would like to know the machinery that will follow after so that we will know that we will get some satisfactory answer to that, which as yet seems to be a little indeterminate.

Mr. John Radford [4]: Would I be in order in making a formal proposition that in six months from tonight a Special General Meeting be called of the Royal Institute to hear the considered opinion of the Council on these two subjects?

The President: That could be taken as a request and that request would be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. John Radford: I have come all the way up here from Devonshire especially for this meeting and so have a number of other people. I believe this is a very full General

Meeting and I am making that request. If the President of my Society is not here I, the Vice-President, will make it on behalf of the Devon and Cornwall Society of Architects. If my President is here I will be glad if he will either accept that or tell me to sit down.

Mr. A. G. Bazeley [F] (President, Devon and Cornwall Society of Architects): Mr. President, in the circumstances, I can only ask you to accept that if it is in order or to tell him to sit down if it is not in order.

Mr. A. N. Harris [F]: It has been proposed and seconded from the platform that the Report be received. I should have thought the proper procedure was for the Report to be received and debated and then we can take up these motions as to whether we adopt it in its entirety or not.

Mr. Brian Bunch [4]: I would like to support that view, Mr. President. I feel that the meeting is a very serious one and we should give the Report a chance to be put and then dealt with as Mr. Harris suggests. I would like to support also the suggestion that time be given to the Council. After all, the Council are your elected representatives. You vote for them, do you not? I suggest that we shall get on further if we do allow the meeting to be conducted in that way rather than perhaps in the way in which it has started.

Mr. G. B. Oddie: Would it not help to hasten the proceedings if we were to remember the points of procedure which I think some people are forgetting. The motion is before the house that this Report be received. Is it not in order that if there is an amendment to be proposed to that motion it should first be debated and then, if it falls, the original motion be debated? If the amendment is debated that does not preclude each section of the Report being dealt with under the terms of the amendment.

I would suggest if anyone has a formal amendment to the motion ready to propose that they should read it out in grammatical form, otherwise I suggest they should desist.

Mr. J. A. Partridge [4]: May I have guidance as to whether a formal amendment is before the meeting or not? If it is not I would suggest that the person who first raised this point should move a formal amendment to the Report and I would be perfectly willing to second it.

The President: We should like to hear what the amendment is.

Mr. Thurston Williams: You, sir, are of the opinion that there is no formal amendment before the meeting?

The President: Not at the moment.

Mr. Thurston Williams: May I try to help you and the meeting by in fact moving such an amendment? I would like to move an amendment that the Report be received and that the Council be requested to reconsider Bye-law 60 to give considera-

tion to the means by which a poll of the members may be taken and the methods by which a Special General Meeting may be called.

Mr. J. A. Partridge: I formally second.

The President: We accept that and I have given an undertaking that we will consider it. On behalf of the Council I give that undertaking.

Mr. Basil Spence: Mr. President, I cannot understand how that is an amendment to the Report because there is nothing in the Report that deals with these two amendments. Surely if one accepts a Report one amends items in the Report or suggests amendments to items in the Report. These are not. The President has already said he will accept these and they will, of course, be considered by the Council as soon as possible. That assurance has been given, but I do not see that that is a formal amendment to the Report as it now stands.

Mr. Thurston Williams: May I say my amendment was not an amendment to the Report but an amendment to the motion that the Report be received.

A Member: May I have some guidance on what is the legal position if the Report be not received?

The President: I am instructed that if we do not receive the Report we put it in the fire.

Mr. G. Grenfell Baines [4]: I must say in passing it would be highly irresponsible of the meeting to condemn this Report out of hand in toto.

Mr. Basil Spence: It does represent a great deal of voluntary work. This is a voluntary Institution formed by people giving their time and it represents the extreme hard work on the part of a great many committees, all of them unpaid, all of them giving their time. I think it would be unfair not to accept their findings. I do submit that to you.

We as a body are fair people—individually we are fair—and I do not think that that is a very good suggestion. I suggest that the suggestion that the Report be not received is a bad one because of labours of all the people who have served this Institute voluntarily.

Mr. H. T. Swain [4]: Mr. President, Gentlemen, I do not think anybody suggested that the Report be not accepted. It was simply a question and I did not want the platform to feel alarmed about that. There has been a discussion here about the question of calling members [together] as in other societies. I think a motion has been put and has been accepted by the President. I understand that Mr. Barr has asked permission to put forward a further amendment to the motion before the house on page 14. I would like to suggest that we accept the discussion that has taken place, which I think has pleased most people here, and continue to page 14.

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

The President: The next item, Ladies and Gentlemen, is on page 5, 'Board of Architectural Education'. Has anyone any question to raise on that?

Mr. John Smith [A 15252]: Of all the sections in the Report this one seems to contain an undue amount of largely irrelevant and inconsequential information. What many of us are interested in learning is whether the Council has any new proposals, in fact a new policy, for what a lot of us consider is a vital question—education. It is a subject which is of immediate concern to every one of us here. Towards the end of last year I was privileged to visit every school that provides a course in architecture of some sort or another in this country, and I was shocked by the inequality of the educational facilities provided.

A recent announcement made by the Board, which for some reason has been omitted from this section of the Report, concerned the Department of Architecture of the Canterbury School of Art which has now joined the rank of recognised schools. It would be invidious to suggest that Canterbury is not a very good school because in all probability the training available there may be of a very high standard, but many of us are concerned by the fact that there seem to be too many schools providing too little in the way of a really satisfactory training. At present there are 21 fully recognised schools; 5 schools recognised up to Intermediate; 9 listed; and 30-odd schools with 'facilities for the instruction of intending architects'. That is a total of 65 active schools. Does the recognition that has so recently been granted to Canterbury mean that the pattern for dispersal of architectural education is going to continue as it has done for so long, that an unsatisfactory and piecemeal approach to the problem is to be perpetuated, or is a new policy going to be implemented?

The Secretary has told me that prior to this meeting the Council will have considered Sir Leslie Martin's report on the Oxford Conference. When is this report going to be published? Can a new policy towards education be formulated? Can the outline of that policy, if it has been drawn up, be announced now?

Mr. R. E. Enthoven [F] (Chairman, Board of Architectural Education): In reply to the last speaker I can say it is very definitely proposed to modify the pattern as it now stands. Unfortunately from the point of view of this meeting the Report submitted by Sir Leslie Martin after the recent Conference in Oxford was only considered at the Council Meeting this afternoon. Six definite proposals were made which will be submitted to the Board of Architectural Education at its next meeting on the 19th. It would be improper, I am afraid, for me therefore to announce these details in advance, but I can give you the assurance that the proposals will be published at the same time as the Agenda

for the Board Meeting, which I think will be on Monday week. It is not very long to wait. In the meantime I assure you that the proposals are far-reaching with a view to improving the standard generally and the whole structure of education.

Mr. F. H. Heaven [A]: May I be allowed to raise a question on page 6? In the right-hand column we are told that 598 people have passed the final examinations. If you refer back to page 4 on the membership you will find the increase in membership from 1957 to 1958 is something over 500. A footnote to the membership list says that 765 Associates have been admitted during the past year. If you take the 598 who passed the examination externally from the 765 there is a balance of 167. May I be told if they have come through the schools? I raised this question four or five years ago when the passes in examinations were 500 and I was told that the 500 came from the schools five years ago; now it is 167. Is there a policy in the Council to subdue the output in the schools in relation to the external examinations?

The President: I should not say so, no.

Mr. F. H. Heaven: It appears to be so.

Mr. Everard Haynes (Secretary, Board of Architectural Education): Some of those who take the examination either directly through the R.I.B.A. or through recognised schools are either doing so solely to qualify for registration under the Registration Acts or because they are not British subjects. That figure is bound to vary from year to year and that is the explanation.

The President: Is there anything else anyone would wish to say on schools?

Mr. W. A. Allen [A]: I think one should recognise that this Conference on Architectural Education that was mentioned really has been rather an achievement. People who were invited to come from abroad for it, from Scandinavia and from other parts of the world and from the Commonwealth, all agreed it was by far the most remarkable conference in their knowledge that had been held on architectural education, brief as it was. Hardly a word was wasted and no time was wasted. Members really can be assured that it represented a tremendous step forward if the action agreed upon there is in fact put into practice.

The President: Is there anything further?

Mr. P. A. Burchett [A]: The number of Associates grows with alarming rapidity. It might be 100,000 if we go on like this. As far as I can make out there seems to be a shortage of work for everyone at the moment. I do not suggest we should stop people coming in, but would it not be more fair to people starting in the profession to point out that there is a limit to the number of architects the country can accommodate.

Mr. Richard Sheppard [F] (Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee): I am not on the Board

of Architectural Education so I should not be standing up to answer the question, but it is a matter the Ad Hoc Committee have been considering. We are getting out questionnaires which are being examined by our totally inadequate staff. We are very much alive to these considerations. We can look round this room and see far too many architects. If we had £10 from everyone in this room our financial problem would be solved. It is a matter being considered and it is a matter which made the background to the Conference at Oxford. The two things do tie up, as you can very well see. I hope within a few months these figures which we are getting from the questionnaires will be ready for you. They of course take a lot of interpretation statistically, but we shall be able to indicate what sort of numbers the profession is likely to have if the present policy of admission and the present standard of education are continued.

The President: Are there any questions on the Sir Banister Fletcher Library, page 7? Committee Reports. Are there any comments on the Competitions Committee? The Practice Committee?

COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. G. B. Oddie: It is popularly believed that occasionally would-be clients approach the R.I.B.A. seeking advice on what architects to employ. I would like to ask first of all if this is so and, secondly, if it is so how many such applications have they received in the past twelve months, who has advised them, who has given the advice and on what grounds?

The Secretary: We do receive quite frequently requests for the names of architects for different kinds of work. In the case of the more important buildings it is the President's duty to advise, taking such advice as he thinks desirable. In many cases where the work is in the country he takes the advice of the Allied Society concerned; in the cases of smaller work like private houses the inquirer is always referred direct to the President of the Allied Society in whose area the inquirer wishes to build. I am afraid I have no statistics to give you because I did not know this question was coming up.

Mr. M. Brawne: As there is no Allied Society in London, does it mean all questions regarding building in London are referred to the President direct?

Mr. C. P. Howells [A]: This may sound all right from our point of view but what I would like to impress upon the Council is the peculiar idea clients get of the behaviour of architects. I know of an exact case quoted to me by a colleague. A client came to him and asked what sort of peculiar people we were. He said, 'I go to your head office in London and speak nicely to them and ask for names of architects in my town and they refer me to Guildford.' He said, 'I wrote to the Guildford Chapter and again asked the same

question and I was given two architects in London and two in Woking, neither of them being the village concerned.' We know for a fact that there are at least six architects in the village referred to and our clients get extraordinary ideas. Surely we have a list at the office to which the clerk could refer to get the names in a few moments.

Mr. Martin Richardson [A]: I believe the point that was asked just now was on what basis clients who came to the R.I.B.A. were given names of architects. On what basis are the architects selected to do the jobs for them? I believe we did not get an answer to that point.

Mr. C. P. Howells: If that was a reply to my question I could not hear it.

Mr. J. A. Partridge: I feel it would be of interest to many members to know the statistics concerning clients who have approached the R.I.B.A. I would particularly like to know, concerning major building programmes, whether it is in fact the Council's policy to recommend that competitions should be held for major buildings.

The President: I can answer that straight away. It is the official policy of the Council to recommend competitions, but they are not always successful in getting competitions adopted by the building owner. Various reasons are given, for example a building owner does not want to try an inexperienced architect because the competition might be won by a young man. As an old chairman of the Competitions Committee I have always put forward the idea of the competition when ever I have been asked to nominate for specific jobs. As I say, in these days competitions are not as popular as they were before the war.

In regard to the giving out of jobs generally the policy adopted is for the Secretary to communicate with the chairman of the local Chapter or the President of the local Allied Society. The President of the local Allied Society is asked for names of suitable local people. If one does not do that one gets the local Allied Societies up in arms because they say the London men are collaring all the work. You very often send in a list of local architects with one or two from other large towns which may be situated in the neighbourhood. The client, from these four or six names, selects the one he likes the best, generally after an interview with them. That is the general procedure.

Mr. R. Duncan Scott [F]: It may help the members who have asked this question to know that in the South-Eastern area, covering Kent, Surrey and Sussex, of which I am President, in the last two years we have had about 22 to 24 requests from the R.I.B.A. to supply names. They are either dealt with by me as President or, as usually is the case, by one of seven Chapter Presidents. We happen to have Guildford in that area and I assure the

questioner that the Chairman of the Guildford Chapter would not be such a fool as not to put forward two local architects.

Mr. C. P. Howells: This prospective client eventually got the name of my colleague through the local council.

Mr. J. E. A. Brownrigg [A] (Chairman, Guildford District Chapter, South Eastern Society of Architects): I have no recollection of the particular case at the moment—it may not have been in my term of office—but I assure Mr. Howells that I will give the explanation he requires. May I say that we do give very careful consideration to these matters. Naturally one must know something about the architects one recommends if it is possible to do so, and there are a number of architects living in our rural areas and carrying on some practice there while working in London at the same time.

Mr. Christopher Gotch [A]: On the question of competitions I would very much like to know what steps the Public Relations Office take to publicise and educate the building owners about the advantages and disadvantages of competitions.

Mr. A. B. Waters [F] (Hon. Secretary, Public Relations Committee): May I answer that on behalf of the Public Relations Committee. I do not think such a question has ever been considered by our Committee. In fact we regard competitions as the prerogative of the Competitions Committee. Any communications to the Press in regard to that, I would feel, would come through the Competitions Committee.

Mr. Bryan Westwood: I do think there is a fairly widespread feeling throughout the membership that there is not enough competition. I think that ours is the only profession in which this situation arises; the competition does offer a chance for young and brilliant architects to achieve something before they reach the doddering stage. I think the Institute should investigate this matter because there has been a trend for the competition to dwindle.

The President: That will be done.

A Member: Referring back to the previous questioner who asked for statistics, you said the statistics were not available. In view of that, may I suggest that they may be published in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL and that you continue to publish them for the future.

The President: I will put that proposition to the Council.

Mr. G. B. Oddie: Before we leave that, as the person who raised this point may I say that I think there is a thoughtful section of opinion which might regard publication of cases as undesirable. It is quite obvious that the R.I.B.A. will continue to be asked for such information and it would very much

damage the interests of the R.I.B.A. and of the clients if precise details of that information are to be published. I think people should really bear that in mind.

The purport of my question originally was largely to demonstrate that such questions must be referred to people to whom authority has been given and it is therefore all the more essential that those people enjoying that authority should also enjoy the confidence of the general body of membership.

The President: We now pass to the Practice Committee; the Professional Text and Reference Books Committee; the Committee on Bye-laws and Building Regulations; the Public Relations Committee.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. B. J. McMillan [A]: I feel it would be a pity to let this meeting pass without expressing our disgust at the fact that when financial cuts had to be made recently the axe fell first and foremost on the Public Relations Committee. They were cut from £10,000 this year to something like £1,500 which I think we would all say for a Royal Institute acting on a nation wide basis is miserably inadequate. On £1,500 one can do practically nothing. I have no doubt that the question of these financial cuts will be debated later on on page 14, but I would not want this Public Relations Committee Report to pass without having registered my dismay that they have been the chief sufferers from the financial cut.

Mr. A. B. Waters: While we were of course disappointed that our grant was cut I am sorry to think that our members here feel, as is suggested by the applause, that our Report suggests we have been able to do practically nothing.

Mr. Christopher Gotch: I should like to bring up that point. I feel that public relations is the key to the status of the entire profession in the eyes of the nation. I think it is of the utmost importance that a great deal more money should be given to the Public Relations Committee. They may well have done an extremely good job on an extremely limited budget, but I think it is probably the most important facet of the R.I.B.A.'s work to instruct the public, and that means building owners as well, as to what the exact job in life is. I would like to make a very strong recommendation that a great deal more money be awarded to the Public Relations Committee.

Mr. John Brandon-Jones [A]: I would like to state the opposite side to that point that has been made. I think one must remember that the fundamental thing with which we are concerned is producing better architecture and better architects and that the one thing that matters is our educational side, educating ourselves and our successors. I think we have to do that first. I think a great deal of trouble we are having now has been caused because we

talk about getting jobs for architects, raising our status and so on instead of talking about how we are going to do the job we have already got, better. The best advertisement for ourselves is to produce better work.

Mr. W. Home [A]: One or two quite excellent pamphlets have been published explaining the architect and his work to the potential client, but what methods are used to distribute these pamphlets to the potential client?

Mr. A. B. Waters: The distribution of these pamphlets is left to members themselves. There is no machinery within the R.I.B.A. to do this, with one exception. The one exception is that we do distribute so far as we can to planning officers, who are people who may well be asked about architects. We have asked local societies, as our policy again, to give lists of names of their members to planning officers, so that they may give names if asked to do so. The basic distribution of all our pamphlets must be the responsibility of the Allied Societies and of the individual members of this Institute.

Mr. W. H. J. Baverstock [A]: I was going to leave this matter really until we discussed the Ad Hoc Committee. I have more or less been by-passed now. First of all, I do not know Mr. Sheppard, but I would sincerely like to thank him for his Ad Hoc Committee's work. I think he has done a brilliant job.

Tied up with the Ad Hoc Committee are all sorts of other things. Prior to coming to architecture, I worked for a sales department. We had an organisation called Market Research. Before putting a product on the market we found out whether the product was wanted or not and if it was not wanted we made it our aim to make it wanted. I know we are a profession and I suppose it is rather *infra dig.*, but surely as we are churning out architects we should ask ourselves for what purpose. That is the whole point of this. You say that we should bump up our education, but for what purpose? There has to be a reason for this education. There are thousands of us—I do not know the proportion—as I am at the moment, in a public office. My client virtually is my chief. He in this particular case will not allow certain things that you ask a client to do, such as site supervision, so I maintain the average architect is not doing his work at all. I do not know what you are educating him for. Site supervision, specifications, all the subjects that you take in your examinations, are not used to the full and yet you are crying out for more education. It comes back to this idea of mine for Market Research.

Probably the Ad Hoc Committee is trying to find out what is required from the architect. I do not know what percentage the architects are but I suppose 60 or 70 per cent are not in direct contact with the client at all and therefore have a different approach to the problem. I do not know whether the Ad Hoc Committee are going into it, but until they create some sort of

Market Research insofar as what an architect is for, then we are wasting our time.

Mr. Richard Sheppard: I think the speaker seems to be under a misapprehension. In the first place Market Research—by which I really mean trying to get more work for architects—is something we are doing. We are trying to find out what is the total volume of building work which comes to architects in this country. The figures were not kept before the war and they were not kept during the war. We are now trying to find out by circulating our members the annual volume of work controlled by architects both in public and private work in this country. We have only just started in 1958 and I do not suppose we will have any reliable figures on that until we have a sufficient period of time from which we can assess the position, probably in 1961 or 1962. Then we will be able to give some idea of the total amount of work available to architects in this country. We have no exact idea of the global volume of work as opposed to building work, repairs and that sort of thing, which is again available to architects. The last speaker confused this by suggesting I or the Ad Hoc Committee was asking for more architects. Our own opinion is—I am really jumping the gun here because I am only saying what I believe will emerge from the figures which we are collecting—that there are probably too many architects in this country already and one of the things we have to consider as a profession is not only raising our standards in order to secure a greater degree of public respect for architecture but also, since after all we have all got into the castle we can pull up the drawbridge, to see what we can do in the future. The last speaker said that architects are not being used to the full extent of their capabilities. I know of only too many instances which have come to my knowledge where their opportunities or rather their capabilities have not matched up to their opportunities, but that is by the way. In this particular case here, I can only tell you that we are pretty sure that a great number of architects in this country who are getting qualified at the present time are going to be used to a large extent as clerks and draughtsmen because there are 18,000 of us in the profession, which is a great deal more than in any other country. If you regard it on a comparative basis with other European countries or with America you will see that there are more qualified architects per [head of] population and in relation to the total amount of building work in this country than in any other. It is a fact one has to face. It is no good saying, 'Isn't it a shame? How miserable we all feel', we can only lift ourselves out of it because no one else will.

Mr. Stephen Macfarlane [A]: The other day I met a doctor. He asked me what I did and I told him that I was an architect. Involuntarily he blurted out, 'Oh, you poor fellow.' He added that we had no professional relations officer. Every real issue

of architecture, the whole attitude of urbanism and the future of our environment as a whole is at stake. Time and time again opportunities go by where there is no official voice from us as a profession. We have put up a building in Portland Place of which we should be ashamed. I do not want to cause any cheap laugh because it is more serious than that. It is easy to raise a laugh. We are living in an age where pamphlets are useless and one can ask any political agent about that. What we want is a paid professional public relations officer who can speak with a really positive voice and not just be rather apologetic about the mistakes that are made. I think in any other country architects as a body are much more positive than we. As a profession I think we are terribly fragmented. Much more can be done at local level, but I do wish to say that although we are over-populated as architects we are also underworked. There is much more we should be doing in such a densely populated country. The environment can so easily disintegrate into chaos, as we see around us now. Every building should be designed and not allowed just to happen.

With regard to circulating R.I.B.A. members, I would suggest to Mr. Sheppard that he circulates planning authorities and not members because he wants statistics and he will not get any statistics of any use from us. I would like to stress that whatever money we have, even if it is at the expense of other parts of the budget, ought to be put into a really efficient person who has a loud voice. He may be an architect or not. In the B.M.A. most of the officials are doctors who have real concern for medicine. I think we need many more people whose concern is architecture.

Mr. J. H. Crowther [F]: At the last meeting of the Public Relations Committee we were informed of the amount allowed to the Public Relations Office. The first cut meant that [John] Lander was left to run the whole thing. We asked for a travelling exhibition about 18 months ago; I think we will get it in about two years time when it will be completely out of date. Are you going to send out more travelling exhibitions? Are you going to help architects to publicise architecture?

Mr. A. B. Waters: That is a difficult question to answer. I think the last speaker is confusing the public relations work in referring only to Mr. Lander who is responsible for exhibitions. It is true, unfortunately, that Mr. Lander is at present working on his own. As to the policy of the travelling exhibitions, that is under discussion at the present time. There is a certain amount of criticism of the travelling exhibitions as a means of publicising architecture. One of the main reasons is that referred to by the last speaker, the length of time that it takes to tour an exhibition round the country. There are two copies of the present travelling exhibition. Fortunately by means of a grant from the Civic Trust specially for that purpose we

are at the moment preparing two further copies of that exhibition and therefore the time of circulation will be materially reduced.

Mr. Grenfell Baines: I think this stringent financial situation must be taken by Allied Societies as a challenge. We have seen the growth of Allied Societies but the amount they are doing could be stepped up. It is up to you to help yourselves just as much as depending upon the central organisation.

To give an illustration of what the Allied Societies can do to help themselves, a recent symposium had to have a small exhibition. A couple of private architects and one official architect set to work and in a week made a first class small exhibition. It is that sort of thing that must come about in the Allied Societies. We must not wait for the Institute all the time. I suggest that the Allied Societies should help themselves.

Mr. Thurston Williams: May I take a point of order? We keep coming back to the issue of finances. I do not think we need be too much ashamed to say that this is the key issue before us tonight. Many of us may want to raise items on this Report. I for one. Many others may have to leave early. Can we now advance the Agenda to the finances of the Royal Institute so we can discuss this with the maximum number of people here.

Mr. John Radford: First of all, with regard to the work the Allied Societies are doing, the one in which I am involved has run several competitions and is working on one at the moment in connection with the Festival of Arts. I think we will be coming to finance in a moment and we will find that our finances are reduced. It is not easy to slash the money which the R.I.B.A. are spending on Public Relations and then turn round to the Allied Societies, who have limited budgets also, and say that they ought to do it.

Someone a little earlier on said we should publicise ourselves by the value of our own work. That is obviously true but the architect amongst all artists is the one person who must have the clients before he can produce a work of art at all. In the smaller provincial towns where many of us are very glad to get a small house to design or a small industrial project, there is, I think, an increasing but certainly a considerable effort on the part of some of the builders, estate agents and others to advise people that the last person they want to go to is an architect. One does feel that this Institute should be putting very great efforts into telling the public how valuable an architect is, not only for our own benefit. I do not know about other people but I have several cases in my files at the moment where I have been called in by local solicitors and by barristers to try to help unfortunate people who have succumbed to that sort of talk and who are now in a very considerable mess. This is our interest and it is the public interest as well. Some of us are finding it a very sad and very serious matter.

One last point; someone, I think, from

the Ad Hoc Committee spoke about collecting figures. Four of us from Devon and Cornwall came up during last year in the autumn and met the Public Relations Committee. We gave them some figures which we collected—which I have not got with me now and if I had I could not quote them because the means by which they were collected and the nature of them was confidential—and they should be marked with an X for Horrific exhibition. The effect is that through planning authorities and panels of architects it is very clear that an extremely small proportion of plans for smaller buildings are ever coming into any contact with an architect at all.

A Member: From a local paper of 15 June 1957 one sees that applications to the planning authority totalled 439, and of these only 65 were designed by architects.

Mr. T. P. Garwood-Jones [A]: Mr. Sheppard mentioned just now that there were 18,000-odd architects in this country, which he thought was too many for the profession. Mr. Sheppard is far too intelligent and we respect him as an architect far too much for him not to realise that we are only doing about 20 per cent of the building work in this country. If our public relations was a little better, if we were doing something like 40 or 50 per cent, we would be in a better position and would not have enough architects. Mr. Brandon-Jones mentioned just now that it was architecture we wanted not so much public relations. I agree with him on the first point that we must have very vigorous and very fine architecture, but we must not do it at the expense of public relations. Having designed fine buildings and buildings which are functional and working extremely well we have still to sell them to the public.

I have worked for a very fine firm of architects for three years and now I have sold my soul and I happen to be chief architect for a building firm. We give them what is usually known as the 'package service'. Quite frankly I would rather be in the position of being out of work. What I mean by that is that if only architects were doing their job properly, building owners would not come to me. The building owners in that case would not come to my firm; they would feel they were getting a better service by going to the independent professional man. We have something to offer them all in service. Although I do quite well out of this in many ways, it is wrong from the profession's point of view. We must be more vigorous in turning out fine architecture. The public think architects turn out 'Stockbroker Tudor'. In point of fact an architect can turn out functional buildings which fit the social environment for living.

Mr. Richard Sheppard: As we want statistics with regard to architects employed by builders—can we have the last speaker's name because we are trying to get information on package services. We want to know whether they are efficient.

Mr. T. P. Garwood-Jones: My services are at your disposal.

The President: Can we now pass on to finances, page 14? Is that agreed? (agreed).

FINANCES OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE

Mr. A. N. Harris: I would like to raise a point on Mr. Jefferiss Mathews' introduction. In the last paragraph he says: 'It will be apparent to members that the Allied Society rebates form an important part of the financial structure.' Then he goes on to say that a committee is being set up to investigate this. I must go forward on that point because if you turn to your income and expenditure accounts on page 20 you will see that last year contribution to the Allied Societies was £22,142 1s. If you go further forward to page 22, to your rough estimate of expenditure and income of ordinary funds for the year ending 31 December 1958 you will see that the forecast budget for contributions to Allied Societies is cut to £17,000. That is a reduction of 25 per cent. In reply to Mr. Baines's brave words about the Allied Societies and the work they do, the point is that the Allied Societies draw their strength from the fact that subscriptions are either nil or negligible. If you reduce grants to them I think the work is going to deteriorate and their strength will deteriorate. In fact, with those three items on the Report, you propose to set up a committee and you propose to put severe financial stricture on them before they even sit.

Mr. John Smith: Mr. President, may I observe here that in 1956 contributions to Allied Societies were only £13,973. Was this year just a bumper year and is next year going down again? It seems that £17,000 is quite a handsome figure.

Mr. E. D. Jefferiss Mathews (Hon. Treasurer): I think perhaps I can help members on this. It is correct that for the immediate forecast for the current year 1958, it has been necessary to reduce the amounts being made to Allied Societies. May I give this factually for the moment without commenting whether it is good or bad? The position must be taken comparatively. This year, 1958, is the year that will be lean for the whole body in view of the fact that our increased commitments have to be met, but our increased subscriptions (whether rightly or wrongly levied) will not become effective until 1959. In 1959 and from then onwards our forward budgeting, which at the moment has been based on giving the Allied Societies comparable rebates to the £22,000 this year, has been based upon the present policy adopted in respect of Allied Societies. Because it may be that that policy is wrong we are asking for a special committee to be set up at the beginning of the next session to consider the whole policy of Allied Societies.

Mr. Cleeve Barr: May I move at this stage the amendment you said I might move when we came to page 14?

The President: Will you read it out or state the amendment?

Mr. Cleeve Barr: I did correspond with the Secretary and I offered to produce the requisite number of copies for the meeting which, if you will permit, I will hand round. I will read it out while that is being done.

THE AMENDMENT

'That the Annual Report be adopted subject to the following considerations:

'This Annual General Meeting expresses its grave concern at the state of the Institute's affairs, as revealed by the Report, and considers this to reflect not only business inefficiency but also a failure to appreciate the needs of the profession. It believes it necessary in order to remedy this state of affairs both to revise the financial policy and to reform the Council to make it more representative of the general body of members, and for these purposes instructs the Council

1. To carry out a comprehensive review of the Institute's office organisation and business affairs, and also to reconsider its financial policy so that its professional and public activities may be effectively developed.
2. To initiate and prosecute such action as is necessary to ensure that
 - (a) honorary officers (other than the President and Past Presidents who are directly elected) shall be appointed only from elected members of Council;
 - (b) all members of Council who shall be entitled to vote, shall be elected by postal ballot—this being organised in the case of regional representatives locally by the Allied Societies.
3. To call a Special General Meeting to report progress on the foregoing items by December 1958.'

Mr. President, the first point to which I wish to draw attention is that it would be unreal in present circumstances, and extremely misleading, to consider the financial proposals contained in this Report without at the same time considering the confidence of the membership in the Council itself. One cannot simply raise subscriptions and examination fees all round and expect a proportionate increase in the total income—unless at the same time the value of the service provided by the Royal Institute, in the widest sense, is substantially improved. There is already evidence, from the larger proportion of student members in 1957 and 1958 (Annual Report, p. 4) that many students have postponed becoming Associate members due to the subscription increases in 1956. The law of diminishing returns has already begun to operate, and will increase in its effects unless funda-

mental changes are made in the constitution of the Council. Mr. Cox will develop this point further in seconding the motion.

The second point I wish to make on the narrower financial issues, is that the Committee's Report, coupled with the Financial Statement in February, bears all the evidence of confused thought and violent panic, following earlier complacency and mismanagement.

(1) In February we were told that the estimated short fall on the Building Fund was £100,000. In April it is put at £73,121—with no word of adequate explanation for the difference.

(2) Great play was made in February of the losses due to falls in the market value of stocks (actual figures were not given). In the balance sheet the depreciation shown is only a few hundreds.

(3) No explanatory notes are given in the published budget for 1958 of the statistical basis of the estimates. The three-year budget referred to in the Report is not published at all.

(4) The increase from membership subscriptions was said, in the February statement, to fall short of the 1955 estimate by £8,800 per annum. In round figures the average increase in membership in the boom years 1949–55 was 1,200. The average increase for 1956–58 was 660. No explanation is given as to how that deficiency of £8,800 a year on subscriptions was made up, but the only possible explanation one can deduce from the figures is that the 1955 estimate actually assumed a continued growth in membership equal to the rate of the boom years. An over-estimate at the time of an additional 500 members a year would just about account for the £8,800 deficiency—a fantastic state of affairs in these days of known bulges in the educational world.

(5) Why should we subsidise publications to the tune of £8,000 a year from subscriptions? Why does the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL—a gilt-edged investment for advertisers—have only 75 pages of advertisements, when ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN and the ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW, monthlies with a much smaller circulation, carry 105 and 120 pages respectively? Why should not the Kalendar (like that of the Blackpool Society) and in fact every publication (in the present financial circumstances) make a profit?

(6) Examination fees? The budget estimate for the holding of examinations and awarding prizes for 1958 is £6,000. Is it really fair that the increase from examination and entrance fees should be £25,000? The cost of holding examinations, since they will be fewer, drops from £7,000 to £6,000, but the students fees are going up. Is it fair that they should bear the cost of the new building? By all means let us restrict entry to the profession by raising educational standards, but not by raising economic barriers.

(7) Cannot economies be made in the H.Q. administration? Cannot the amount of paper be reduced—particularly papers headed 'Confidential'—and the servicing of committees be streamlined? How does the A.A. manage to function so actively with so much lower overheads than Portland Place?

(8) How on earth did the Committee fail to allow for increases in the cost of building, for the telephone installation and so on to the extent of £19,700? A week ago, on a conference platform, I was one of several architects who were asked point-blank by a contractor: 'Is it true that the R.I.B.A. has to raise its subscriptions to cover the cost of variations and additions to the contract for its new building?'

This brings me to my last point, the most crucial of all—that, in spite of the President's fine words in the covering statement to the Report, the policy of devoting all surpluses from ordinary funds to the reduction of the loan on the new building is going to cripple the professional and public activities of the Institute. I am not one of those who think that lavish and glossy exhibitions at Portland Place are the best way of spending money on public relations. Rather we should concentrate on putting our own profession in order by a series of limited discussions, concentrated training courses and other measures to raise the standard of service we provide to the public. The recent science symposia and the Oxford educational conference were tiny steps in the right direction, but what is the financial policy we now face?

The sum of £73,000 is being raised on a mortgage. This would result in annual charges of, say, £7,500 a year to pay off the cost of the new building over 20 years. But for the next four years, it would appear, the Council budgets to put £5,000 a year to the new premises fund, plus the total surplus for the year which is estimated at £12,000 a year. That is £17,000 a year, or 12 per cent of our current income, to reducing the mortgage. This is certainly a panic decision, and makes nonsense of any talk about maintaining the activities of the Royal Institute.

Already the Science Committee of which I am a member, has been told by its Secretary that, unless a cut in his clerical staff allowance is restored, he cannot possibly cope with our programme of three symposia and eight lectures in the coming year—and I would remind you that the last science symposium made a profit of over £200—all of which presumably is to go to the Building Fund, instead of helping to finance further activities.

No ordinary member would dream of raising the money to build a house for himself by taking out a twenty-year mortgage and then crippling his daily expenditure by trying to pay it all back in a few years.

The Council's policy that the first call on any surpluses be for the purpose of reducing the building loan, must be rescinded.

In conclusion, I recognise that to some

extent we are all guilty of negligence in the conduct of the affairs of the R.I.B.A. We have in the past taken the financial accounts and Annual Report far too much for granted. But some—and particularly those who accept office—are more guilty than others. Admittedly progressive changes are slowly, very slowly, taking place. Basic changes in the democracy of the Council itself have, however, still to be made to enable these changes to bring the Council once again into contact with the membership.

I beg to move the resolution.

Mr. Anthony Cox [F]: Mr. President, I wish to second that motion.

The President: May I say one word? I am advised that the amendment would be perfectly in order legally if one word were altered. I thought at this stage in the proceedings it would be just as well to say so. The sentence is this: 'It believes it necessary in order to remedy this state of affairs both to revise the financial policy and to reform the Council to make it more representative of the general body of members, and for these purposes instructs the Council. . . .' Instead of the word 'instructs' the word 'requests' should be substituted. If you could agree to that the amendment would be acceptable.

Mr. Cleeve Barr: I accept that amendment.

The President: I will read the amendment in full. 'That the Annual Report be adopted subject to the following considerations. This Annual General Meeting expresses its grave concern at the state of the Institute's affairs, as revealed by the Report, and considers this to reflect not only business inefficiency, but also a failure to appreciate the needs of the profession. It believes it necessary in order to remedy this state of affairs both to revise the financial policy and to reform the Council so as to make it more representative of the general body of members, and for these purposes requests the Council (1) to carry out a comprehensive review of the Institute's office organisation and business affairs, and also to reconsider its financial policy so that its professional and public activities may be effectively developed. (2) To initiate and prosecute such action as is necessary to ensure that (a) honorary officers (other than the President and Past Presidents who are directly elected) shall be appointed only from elected members of the Council; and (b) all members of the Council who shall be entitled to vote, shall be elected by postal ballot—this being organised in the case of regional representatives locally by the Allied Societies. (3) To call a Special General Meeting to report progress on the foregoing items by December 1958.'

Mr. Anthony Cox: Mr. President, I wish formally to second that amendment. Mr. Cleeve Barr has emphasised that if the Institute is to recover from its perilous financial position it is essential that the membership has confidence in its Council.

Few of us, I think, will argue with his contention that unless such confidence exists the raising of subscriptions may well produce only diminishing returns. I am sure this is no mere debating point, but a very serious possibility.

Since the statement on the Institute's finances appeared in February most of us, I imagine, have been aware of an ominous undercurrent of anger and discontent, and the Council must realise—unless it is more grossly out of touch with the membership than I can believe possible—that there exists at the moment a climate of opinion in which resignations are dangerously likely.

However we may deplore the negative attitude implied by resignations, we have to face the fact that should such a process once begin it might well accumulate the momentum of a landslide. Should that happen the consequences would be serious indeed.

It is therefore vitally important that the Council has the confidence of the membership. I am afraid I doubt very much whether the outgoing Council, whose Report we are here to consider, enjoys such confidence; but quite apart from the present crisis I doubt whether any Council appointed in the manner in which ours is, can be said to enjoy such confidence except by some improbable and fortunate coincidence. It is an assembly which by its very nature is remote from the membership. I know that this is a disadvantage under which most governing bodies labour, but in our case there are I think particularly strong reasons for it.

Most of us, I suppose, on receiving our annual ballot papers, will have experienced year after year a similar sense of frustration—what real difference can it make, we ask ourselves, if we vote for Jones, Smith or Robinson, when the majority of the Council will arrive at their seats by other routes, without passing through the sieve of a secret ballot?

Now this is an unhealthy atmosphere to have as a background to our affairs, and for years it has been hanging around like the smell of drains. I put it to you, Sir, that in our present situation it is not only unhealthy but seriously dangerous, and that it would be not only proper, but prudent, for the Council to take at once such action as is necessary to ensure that in future all members of Council who are entitled to vote at Council meetings are elected to their seats by the same method—by postal ballot; and that the honorary officers are appointed only from Council members who have been elected in this manner.

Without going into detail I would like to remind members of the composition of the Council as at present laid down in our Bye-laws. The total membership of the Council is 74. Of this total only 33, including the President and the two Past Presidents, have to reach their seats by postal ballot. The majority, 41, can get there by other routes. Of this majority 24 are Presidents of Allied Societies in the United Kingdom. The method of their election to their Presidencies varies: some,

I understand, are elected by postal ballot by the members of the Allied Society, but this does not happen in all cases.

I would suggest that it would be far more satisfactory if the position could be regularised, so that all Allied Societies used the postal ballot, and I assume that there should be no difficulty in affairs being rearranged on these lines. I question, however, whether the man best able to perform the duties of Allied Society President is necessarily the man best able to give the time to contribute effectively to R.I.B.A. Council affairs, although this is obviously something which should be left to local judgment.

The remaining 17 members of Council are there basically by nomination, and do not have to be elected in any way by the membership. Amongst these are the important posts of the four Vice-Presidents, the Honorary Secretary, and the Honorary Treasurer.

Several Members: It is not true.

Mr. Anthony Cox: I stand open to correction on that, but if it is true it is an extraordinary state of affairs. The balance of 11 to make up the 17 are 5 representatives of Overseas Societies, 2 representatives of the Salaried and Official Architects' Committee, and representatives of the Board of Architectural Education, the R.I.B.A. Registration Committee, the A.A. and the A.B.T.

All these representatives have the same voting power on the Council. Now I submit that in the course of time we have strayed too far from the spirit of our Charter which states that 'there shall always be a Council of the Royal Institute, which Council shall consist of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the one or more Honorary Secretaries, and of other Members to be elected at a General Meeting of the Royal Institute in such manner and at such times as Bye-laws may from time to time prescribe.'

Now is the time to see that our Bye-laws prescribe what the Charter intends.

In such a complicated matter, which must involve discussions with other societies, it is not possible—or desirable—to be precise or definitive in our amendment. What we ask is that the Council should accept the spirit rather than the letter of our proposals, and that they should appoint a working committee to examine ways and means, and report back quickly, and in any case before the end of the year.

The President: It may save a little time if I say that a committee has already been set up to consider the reconstruction of the Council.

Mr. Peter Stevens [A]: I should like to stand up in support of the amendment proposed by Mr. Cleeve Barr and underline some of the references which he has made to the financial report. Certain questions have already been put to Mr. Jefferiss Mathews in a letter which I sent to him last week, to which he has not yet replied—understandably—because of the short

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notice given him. I shall now ask these questions again for the benefit of members at this meeting.

It is assumed that the annual charges on a loan to meet the revised short fall of £73,000 in the New Premises Fund would be in the region of £7,500. To meet this the 1958 budget plans for an allocation of £5,000 to the New Premises Fund plus a surplus of £11,800, i.e. £9,300 more than is theoretically necessary to service the loan. Further, the provisional forward budgets for 1959-61 (unfortunately not published) plan an accumulated surplus of £36,000—something of the same order as the rough estimates for 1958. It is hard to believe that the increased subscriptions due to become operative during 1959 have been taken into account in these calculations. These should bring in an increase in annual income from subscriptions in the region of £27,000 more than that estimated for the current year. Will this not have the effect of increasing the overall surplus during the years 1959-61 to about £39,000 per year? Of this amount only £2,500 will be required to make up the annual allocation to the New Premises Fund (assuming that the 1958 allocation of £5,000 is continued) to our basic loan liability of £7,500 per annum, leaving approximately £36,500 at the Council's discretion to be absorbed, either by reduction in income from other sources, or by substantial increases in expenditure levels over those projected for the current year. The sum involved is so considerable—23 per cent of the total 1958 budget—that some explanation should be given of the forward proposals for its employment. It may be proposed, however, to use this surplus substantially to pay back the principal of the building loan. There is a school of thought—to which I personally subscribe—which holds that it is unfair and unnecessary for members—especially new members—to carry the burden of the new premises over such a short period. Why not extend the payment evenly on an instalment basis over the whole period of the loan and release as much as possible of current surpluses for other activities, or for reduction in subscriptions? Irrespective of the policies which the Council may have in mind it remains a fact that our average annual liability for loan redemption is in the region of £7-8,000 against which long-term plans for subscription income would appear to bring in £44,000 per annum more than budgeted for expenditure under all heads other than new premises in the 1958 estimates.

These figures are based on the 1957 membership and do not take into account any increases in income which may accrue to the Institute due to increased membership after that date.

Mr. Jefferiss Mathews: I would like to say to Mr. Stevens that his letter has not been answered because I thought it more practicable to deal with it here. I think I can very briefly touch on the factual points which have been raised. I will do so briefly because I think it better at this time, but

no doubt if there are details required by members I can give them.

The first point Mr. Barr raised was the question of the forward budgeting based on the cost of the building being approximately £100,000 different from the liability down to £73,000 which it now is. The reason is that we hoped it would be possible not only to have completed this building but to have done a great deal of redecoration, furnishing and fabric work which we think is necessary, but that was not possible. The Finance and House Committee decided upon the absolute minimum necessary and they were able to reduce the amount of the estimate from approximately £100,000 to £70,000.

On the question of the short fall of stocks in relation to the building, the invested fund for the building did fall short but it is true, as Mr. Barr has mentioned, that they were not as bad as we had at one time anticipated. In taking into consideration the overall picture for financing the building it was not only the short fall of the invested stocks that was involved, but also the reduction in the planned surpluses in earlier years, turning 1956 and 1955 into deficits, and it was the overall accumulation factor of the funds available that had dropped, which included the invested capital, but not only that.

On the question of the statement of a budget in the Annual Report which has not been voted on, the Bye-law requirement is that an estimate of expenditure for the following year is included in the budget. It is true that that is subject to Council voting and Council consideration, not only now for one year ahead, but, as we have done, based on three years forward plan in each case. That is a Bye-law requirement that is put in. It is not a definite thing, and it is subject to the Council vote one way or another in the course of a year.

The next point I have is a question of the JOURNAL, as to why that is not self-supporting. It is in fact self-supporting except only for postage, representing approximately a £1,900 deficit in each year. It does carry a very high advertisement rate. I am informed that the advertisement rate is higher than any other comparable journal, and in fact higher than the normal technical journal operating in our profession. We are advised by our Advertisement Manager if we increased our advertisements we might get a decrease of revenue owing to the decrease in value. The Kalendar is not considered such a good advertisement by advertising people and does not have such a big demand. It is considered by the Advertising Manager that it carries the maximum advertisements it is practicable to contain for reasonable revenue.

The policy of the Finance Committee has been based on the policy of the Institute for a long while, that is that income derived from examination fees is in general partly devoted to the income of the Institute. It was not up to the Financial Committee to change that policy, but it is subject to reconsideration if that is the wish of members. The increase in examina-

tion rates is not wholly devoted to that. We have to bear in mind that there is of course the requirement of administrative charges set against the total income for examination fees, and like everything else those have gone up in recent years.

On the overall question of administration, which is obviously a very large subject indeed and one which I can only mention here briefly now, it was necessary not only to increase the staff for the requirements of members for services which the Royal Institute offers, but also to increase the rate of pay which was falling short of that offered by comparable bodies. Consequently we were not getting the quality of staff it was considered that we should get. There was an increase, therefore. The Council have had a detailed family tree, if I may call it such, of the functions of the administrative staff, and that was debated in Council today. It considered the introduction of mechanical operating for clerical functions and so forth. That matter is under active consideration at the moment.

The next point I have noted is the question of public relations, which has already been mentioned. I think it is fair to say that this should be looked at comparatively. It is true that in 1956 the Public Relations Committee were prepared to budget £10,000. As Chairman I had for many years fought to get more money for public relations and then, on becoming Honorary Treasurer, I found myself in the position of having to take that away. The Public Relations Committee operated on a budget of £1,000 a year. The £10,000 allocation was short-lived, rather less than a year, and only approximately £6,000 was spent. In the current year, as I have already mentioned, which is a lean year, the allocation is down again to £1,500, and although it is the lean year it is up by £500 on the previous year. In subsequent years, 1959, 1960 and onwards, the budgeted provision for public relations has increased to £3,500 a year.

Repayment of the mortgage: there seems to be a difference of opinion as to whether it is a wise policy to leave the repayment and not to attempt repayment out of capital. That is a matter of financial advice, I think, which we have taken. We have been advised that under our circumstances of finance it is better to repay the capital if and when possible. It is therefore the intention—and an arrangement has been made with the mortgagors—that we should repay if we are placed in a position to do so financially, and if it is the vote of the Council that we should repay that loan in instalments. That arrangement will reduce the demand for income on repayment of interest.

The question of surpluses in general was raised, I think, by Mr. Stevens. The forward budgets up to 1961 have been before Council, and Council have decided in view of their uncertainty, in view of Council's wish to vote upon them each year, that they should not be published in general. They do, however, work out to one or two very simple figures which I could give and which perhaps would be helpful to members here.

The income in 1958 at the present rate of subscription, maintaining the full services of the Institute with, we admit, cuts in general, Allied Societies, Public Relations and so forth, is budgeted at £162,500 as against expenditure of £148,900, a surplus of £14,000. If in 1959 the increase in subscription rises from £128,000 to £152,000, based not upon an increase of membership but a membership rate fixed at the 1957 level, the surplus in that year is aimed at £18,000, in 1960 £15,000, but owing to the increased staff increments and so forth, which works very largely on the law of averages, in 1961 we come down to a surplus of only £3,000.

All that is based upon the continuation of the full loan and the full interest upon the loan. There are very many variable aspects therefore. If the principal in part be paid back the payment on the loan, the interest on the loan, will therefore be reduced and the surplus will be changed accordingly.

With regard to the intention of the Council in respect of the use of surpluses, it is correct to say at the moment there stands a resolution that all surpluses will be devoted to reducing the loan; but in addition account has been taken of maintaining and increasing the activities of the services of the Institute in such a way as Council thinks fit.

I think that very briefly covers the points made. No doubt I have skimmed over them, but if there are any details arising about which anyone wishes to ask any questions I will endeavour to answer them.

Mr. G. Whitby [F]: Mr. Jefferiss Mathews has produced a number of facts which I rather doubt. He said one of the reasons for the short-fall in the Building Fund was the fact that we had over the years 1955 and 1956 budgeted to put a surplus in the Building Fund. Unfortunately it was turned into a deficit. I am now going to read from the Annual General Report of 1955. 'The income for the year, in accordance with the estimates and the sums, results in a slightly larger surplus than was anticipated.' A surplus was budgeted for and a slightly larger surplus was obtained, not a deficit as Mr. Jefferiss Mathews suggested.

In the year 1955 it was estimated that there would be a deficit for 1956 of £21,768, not a surplus to be devoted to the Building Fund. We knew there was going to be a deficit; fortunately it only came to £13,405. We were a little better off than we had expected, not worse off as the Honorary Treasurer said.

For the current year we budgeted for a deficit of £6,000 and we got a surplus of £12,000; that represents a difference of £18,000 approximately on a total income of £160,000; it is a 10 per cent error.

You will say that there are a large number of variables. For instance, there are all these members who are going overseas. Last year it was estimated that the total income from subscriptions would be £125,000. So many members went overseas that we received £125,551!

It has been stated tonight that it has

been the policy of the Institute to run on fees received from examinations: that that is a long-standing policy. Of course it is a disgraceful policy. I am ashamed that it should have been admitted from the platform. Some years ago I asked a similar question—I was assured that the examinations were run at a very great loss.

The sort of foolishness we get from the platform is typical of the budgeting we have had in the past two years. I suggest it is typical of the budgeting we have got for the next three years.

A. N. Harris: In some confusion and some ignorance I have studied this balance sheet. There is one figure I fail to understand. Under the assets you have the leasehold of this site at £102,517. Is that a current post-war up-to-date value on the leasehold of this site? We are told in your statement that we have a lease for 999 years. We still have 972 years to run. Is that a correct assessment of its value?

Mr. Hilton Wright [A]: Mr. President, may I ask whether it is in order to ask you to put this resolution before the meeting?

The President: Do you wish to cut short the discussion?

Mr. Hilton Wright: No sir, I do not, but with the extremely bad state of ventilation here at the back many of the members are leaving and I think those members should have an opportunity to vote.

Mr. M. Brawne: I second the motion that the proposal by Mr. Cleeve Barr which was seconded by Mr. Anthony Cox be put to the meeting.

Dr. R. Bradbury: Before this motion is put to the meeting I would like to say that I would not like to have a vote taken without mentioning one or two things. I am an elected member of Council, elected by national ballot, and I am nearing the end of my office. At the end of the next session, under the constitution of the Institute, I have to stand down, so I think I can speak as somebody with experience of Council activities and as somebody who has no axe to grind so far as elections are concerned.

I would not like this meeting to end without recognising one or two things. It is very right and proper and good that there should be interest expressed by members in the affairs of their Institute and in the working of their Council. Nobody wishes to deny anybody the right—the democratic right—of free speech and of saying what they like and proposing what they like. Having said that I feel we ought to pay some regard to the valuable services which many of the members of your Council have rendered. If you look at the actual position in the Kalendar you will find that the preponderance of the members of your Council are democratically elected either by national ballot or through the democratic arrangements which they decide among themselves in their Allied Societies.

Mr. Hilton Wright: Is it in order for me to have an answer to my question before the present speaker continues?

Dr. R. Bradbury: Every member of the Allied Societies has a democratic right to appear—[cries of 'it is not true']—it is no good saying it is not true; it is true. Every Allied Society determines how its representative shall be elected and placed on this Council. If you do not like the methods adopted in your Allied Society, the remedy is there.

Look at the personnel whose work you are criticising. Take some of the names. Looking at the names of the Council you will see Mr. Basil Spence, Sir Leslie Martin, Mr. Gibberd, Mr. Forshaw, Mr. F. R. S. Yorke, Mr. Brett, Mr. Sheppard and so on, people who are architects of tremendous scope and quality, who are entrusted with the handling by their clients of jobs worth millions and millions of pounds. You are suggesting that those people who are on the Council have just acted like a bunch of nitwits. You are suggesting that these members of your profession, men of outstanding ability architecturally and in the field of business, and with regard to any standard you like to judge them, have just behaved like nitwits.

If you could listen in to the debates in Council, if you could hear the pros and cons, if you could hear some of us arguing in the very way speakers from this floor have argued here tonight, if you could hear the reasoned debate that goes on, the valuable contributions from all sides, you would realise that these decisions are taken on the democratic vote of a democratic institution. I think you ought to think twice before you frame a resolution in the terms you have proposed tonight.

I personally feel there is a lot to be said for looking at the organisation of this Institute, for looking at the representation, for looking at all the things about which members have spoken tonight, but what I strongly resent is the implication that these outstanding leaders of your profession have not behaved honourably in conducting the activities of your Institute. I can say from personal experience that matters have been proposed from the floor of the Council—and I have proposed such matters—which I have thought were right and proper and they have been voted down, sometimes by very large majorities. I do not resent that because it is the democratic way of life of this country. I do strongly resent the implication in this resolution although I welcome the idea behind it. I hope that this meeting will have the sense of responsibility and decency to alter at least the phraseology of this resolution insofar as it implies that these distinguished members of Council have acted in a false, foolish, insincere and dishonest way. I know from experience that they have devoted a tremendous amount of time in the interests not of themselves but of this very great and wonderful profession to which we all have the honour to belong.

Mr. Hilton Wright: Will you put to the

meeting this suggestion that we should vote on the resolution now?

The President: I will put that proposition to the meeting.

[The proposal that an immediate vote should be taken was put to the meeting and was carried.]

Dr. F. F. C. Curtis [A]: On a point of order, am I right in assuming that everybody in this hall is a corporate member of the R.I.B.A.?

The President: The resolution is to the effect that the Annual Report be adopted subject to the considerations that have already been read out. I would remind you that only corporate members may vote.

[The Amendment was put to the meeting and was carried by a large majority.]

Mr. Cleeve Barr: May I say one word in answer to Dr. Bradbury, who implied that the terms of the resolution suggested discourtesy and dishonour to members of the Council who have given their services voluntarily for a long time. I repudiate this suggestion.

Mr. Kenneth Campbell [A]: May I say for myself, and I am sure for a great number of Council members here, that we do not feel this resolution carries the imputations that Dr. Bradbury said it did.

The President: Would anyone like to raise any further points on the Annual Report?

Mr. C. P. Howells: A point was mentioned about Allied Societies. It does seem to me that this particular point is relative to the subject that has just been discussed. When I first became an Associate I applied to the local Chapter and joined under the misapprehension that I would at least be at the place where the policy of the R.I.B.A. was primarily discharged. This, however, was not the case. The Society, as far as I have been able to find out, holds voluntary meetings which consists purely of literature and at which no business whatever is transacted. I would like to know, even if the representative to this Council is elected democratically by the Allied Societies, how the deuce does he know what he is supposed to vote upon and what is the opinion of fellow members of the Allied Societies when there is no business meeting. I feel, in connection with the consideration of the last amendment by the Council, the Council should consider the possibility of issuing some kind of recommendation to the Allied Societies with regard to the constitution of local meetings of this type. It is all very well for you to say, 'you should do it yourselves locally', but it is not everybody who can spend several weeks working away sending out circulars and things of that type in order to produce the desired effect on the rather reluctant Allied Society Chapter.

Mr. J. E. A. Brownrigg: I suspect Mr. Howells is a member of the Chapter of which I am Chairman. There is a general meeting every year to which all members

are invited. It is at that meeting that the Allied Society representative is elected.

Mr. C. P. Howells: One meeting a year is not enough to discuss the business of this Society.

Mr. Thurston Williams: If I am in order I would like to cast at least one bouquet among the brickbats. If Mr. Sheppard will not be too overwhelmed by my doing so, I would like to support the comments made about the Ad Hoc Committee and in particular add my congratulations to the new Secretary for Professional Relations who has clearly done such a good job.

There are two points I wish to make. One point concerns salaries. We understand a survey has been made which is obviously of considerable importance. May I ask that every effort will be made that this report should be made known. I cannot think that any such report can do anything but add benefit to the officers concerned. The second point I wish to make is to add my congratulations to the initiative taken by this Committee in assisting the formation of the new Local Government Architects' Society. This is a step which will help salaried members. It does not go far enough perhaps, and I hope the Committee in future will add its support to any move which can increase the representation of salaried architects in other fields.

Mr. W. H. J. Baverstock: Have you any figures of architects publicly employed? By that I mean architects on a salary basis as opposed to those employed on a fee basis. Secondly, are there any graphs showing the salaries of professional men? When I say 'professional men' I mean professional architects employed on a fee basis as opposed to professional architects employed on a salary basis. Why can the R.I.B.A. control salaries of men in private practice—in other words controlling their fees—when it would appear that they cannot under their present legislation control architects' salaries.

Mr. Richard Sheppard: I am always glad to receive the approval of Mr. Williams. My name has been mentioned in connection with this, but I would like to say that I just happen to be the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, that is all. I simply take the compliments which have been paid to us, to the Committee and to our Secretary, Mr. Gordon Ricketts, and Miss Milne.

There are just one or two points I would like to make. Everything that we can produce we do produce and will of course get published in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL. So far the Council have been very kind in letting us publish all sorts of things which possibly would not have got by before. Secondly, I would like to correct one thing which I saw in the usually accurate ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL. We were given the credit of having secured under the new budget a rebate in taxation on subscriptions to this Institute for salaried members, and the Ad Hoc Committee and Gordon Ricketts were mentioned specifically in this

feature. We were just in at the kill. All the work had been done for years before by the Salaried and Official Architects' Committee and by the Secretary, Mr. Spragg. It just so happened that in the last year these things came up to boil and we were able to drag it in. It is no credit to us; the credit goes to other people not, as stated in the ARCHITECTS' JOURNAL, to us.

Mr. Donald McMorran [F]: The meeting seems a little unwilling to break up. I wonder therefore if there is time for the Honorary Treasurer to answer some of the points put by Mr. Whitby.

The President: We have already voted on that resolution.

Mr. Donald McMorran: This whole meeting revolves around the question of finance, and I heartily support the spirit of the resolution that has been passed, but it is the financial aspect that lies behind all this trouble, and when I hear from my neighbour that the facts are exactly contrary to what has been published from the platform I would like to hear some sort of reply.

Mr. Jefferiss Mathews: Very briefly I can say one thing. I was wrong in bringing in 1955; it was of course 1956 when there was a deficit. I was unable to take actual notes of Mr. Whitby's points so as to answer them directly, but one point strikes me which I think is worth while mentioning. The point is the inevitable time lag in operating any change and in studying the whole question of administering the finances. The finances have to be considered at the end of each year. We work on the calendar year, and we very rapidly prepared for the consideration of the Council prior to this Annual General Meeting, which is by the Bye-law fixed in May, which leaves very short time between that and this meeting, the effect of the slowing up of the process of improvement, change and modifications in the financial policy, I know that that is a general answer to one or two specific questions that Mr. Whitby put to me, but it is the only one I can recollect as a factual item. If Mr. Whitby would like to put his points again I would endeavour to answer them.

Mr. G. Whitby: I did say that Mr. Jefferiss Mathews said the expected surplus in 1955 was turned into a deficit. He now says he misconstrued that and that 1955 was a surplus after all. 1956 was a deficit, and it was estimated as a deficit, but the deficit we got was not quite as big as was estimated. Therefore there was money in hand which should have increased the Building Fund and not depleted it. Similarly, in 1957 you expected a deficit and had a surplus, the difference between the two was some £18,000. I pointed out that that was bad estimating, and it was not in accordance with the facts as given before.

I also pointed out that the excuses that had been given in the February Report for the decrease in income just do not hold water when they are looked at on the

balance sheets for the last three years. The subscriptions have been just as we expected them to be; they have not gone down. If at the beginning of last year you expected subscriptions to go down you should have known then what was going to happen now.

Mr. Jefferiss Mathews: I think you will agree that I can only answer for the period of time in which I have been Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and House Committee, and not for previous periods. It is correct that the differences between the 1956 actual deficit and that which was anticipated did in fact contribute to the Building Fund as in fact did the surplus this year, although we had originally anticipated on the facts then available that there would be a deficit. The surplus this year of the nominal £12,000 has been used towards the Building Fund. There was an intricate method of financing the Building Fund at one time in operation which has since been changed and which makes reading the balance sheet very difficult. That has now been settled to some extent.

The overall decreases which have in fact occurred appear on paper, as Mr. Whitby has said, not to be the case inasmuch as subscriptions have maintained a level. What I think it is very difficult to appreciate—and I fully realise this—is that our budgets are based upon forecasts, and always have been based upon forecasts of all aspects of the income of the Institute. In the case of recent years there has been an incline of membership rate and consequently although membership has remained at approximately the same figure it was estimated at one time to be an increase and therefore that there would be more money available. I think that is, as far as I can go in the period of time in which I have been representing the Finance and House Committee on the Council, all I can answer. The rest is now past history which has to be accepted as fact.

Mr. Donald McMorran: Having heard that explanation, may I say that my sympathy is now with the Council!

Mr. G. West [4]: Arising out of what the Honorary Treasurer has said, I would like to make two points. First of all the Council policy of paying back the mortgage is a policy on which I think a word of warning should be given. The time lag to which the Treasurer has already referred and the fact that no budget can be one hundred per cent accurate, means that this Institute should have a reasonable reserve in hand, and as an Institute we cannot consider our finances to have been rebuilt until in fact we have a reserve to carry us over such a period so that there are not panic measures. Therefore I would suggest in making any policy the Council should not strip the reserves right down to the bone in order to pay back the mortgage.

My second point is that I fully endorse the Council policy of paying back the mortgage as quickly as possible. The amount of money involved is not really large when you consider the larger mem-

bership of the Institute. I think something like £5 or £6 per head would do the trick, and it does seem reasonable that the mortgage should be paid back not all at once but in a period not exceeding 5 or 6 years. I am sure many of the more responsible members of the Institute would be prepared to pay a certain part of their subscriptions in advance in order to ensure that we do not pay high mortgage charges. Over 20 years we shall be paying as much in interest as we pay back in premium, and that money could well be spent on other things.

Mr. Grenfell Baines: I must say I agree with that point entirely, as you well know. There is another point that members must bear in mind. We must remember the changing value of money. If inflation goes on all will be well because we shall be paying in cheap pounds and we shall not be the losers; if the drive to arrest inflation really succeeds this loan could well be a millstone around our necks. I still feel if the Council went out to the profession generally they would be able to raise that money. There will be many members who will be very willing to help the Institute to acquire—whatever you think about its architectural merit—a real asset for our activities. I hope the Council will have the courage to come out to the profession in order that we can repay this loan as soon as possible because I think that should be our policy.

Mr. Brian Bunch: There is just one very small point that I might make which I think might be of some practicable help in this matter. I myself am an Associate, and in some ways feel guilty of fault. I feel sure with this 2,706 Fellows against 13,000-odd Associates there must be quite a number who really ought to be in the Fellowship. Without presuming on the merits of the particular cases and Council's discretion, might it not be worth while to search our hearts and see whether we should not put up some people for Fellowship because that would help with the financial position?

Mr. Stephen Macfarlane: I have come from Bristol where we have what we believe is a potentially thriving Allied Society. It seems to me this meeting has pointed out the inadequacies of the centralisation which we have in this country of the architectural community. I believe the money we pay should be paid to our local treasurers and forwarded to the R.I.B.A. to form a rebate to you and not handled twice. I believe far more real responsibility should be given to local levels where often there is a real democracy existing where people have only themselves to blame if they get to the state that we have seen here this evening. I do really feel that some revolution with regard to responsibility is called for. We are asking too much of the Council; it is too isolated and too cut off from the general rank and file. I feel we should do more ourselves. It is true that one can do an awful lot at local levels as Mr. Baines has pointed out, and I think we

should do so. We are not going to solve subtopia by merely having exhibitions at the R.I.B.A. Travel exhibitions are very important, but local ones, done by local people, carry far more weight. I think the thing should work at two levels, that of education of the next generation which is vital, and that of having a public relations officer who can speak as the R.I.B.A. spokesman not only on steam radio but on television. That is why I think he should be good-looking and he should be an architect. Further, I think on the other point we should work on two levels, at the national level and the regional level. You will get far more membership when you find new blood can come into the positions on the local councils of the Allied Societies.

I would press that this is put to the people who are going to look into the whole question as framed by Mr. Barr's resolution.

Another point I would suggest is that only members who are elected to the Council should work on the survey and on the affairs put in that resolution. I would also like to propose that they beware of Parkinson's Law.*

Mr. Harry Dootson [4]: Might I suggest that if every member of the Society was to loan the R.I.B.A. £4 the building loan would be paid off forthwith.

The President: It seems that there are no further comments and therefore the business of the meeting is terminated.

Mr. K. C. Evans [4]: On a point of order, I think everybody present here will agree that this has been a difficult meeting in many respects. I would like to move one last resolution—and I am moving this in case you get any wrong ideas about the back of the hall—and that is that we thank you, Sir, for the courageous and very good way in which you have conducted this meeting.

The President: Thank you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, very much indeed. As a matter of fact, I personally am quite convinced that we shall get over the troubles after a few years of careful husbandry of our resources. I am quite sure we shall continue the very great progress we have made, whatever anyone may say, since the war. Thank you all again.

* "Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion."

"In any public administrative department not actually at war, the staff increase may be expected to follow this formula:

$$x = \frac{2km + l}{n}$$

where k is the number of staff seeking promotion through the appointment of subordinates; l represents the difference between the ages of appointment and retirement; m is the number of man-hours devoted to answering minutes within the department; and n is the number of effective units being administered, x will be the number of new staff required each year. Mathematicians will, of course, realise that to find the percentage increase they must multiply x by 100 and divide the total of the previous year (y), thus:

$$\frac{100(2km + l)}{yn} \%$$

And this figure will invariably prove to be between 5-17 per cent and 6-56 per cent, irrespective of any variation in the amount of work (if any) to be done."

Parkinson's Law, or the Pursuit of Progress, by C. Northcote Parkinson. John Murray. [Ed.]



BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE—NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
14-16 MAY 1958: THE CONFERENCE PAPERS ON

Character in the Architecture of Towns

The Character of Places

Professor Sir William

Holford, M.T.P.I., F.I.L.A. [F]

FOR THE FIRST TIME in some years the Conference is to discuss a subject in the realm of aesthetics. Although theoretical, the subject is at the same time extremely practical in its application; for it deals with a quality in the appearance of buildings which is less often achieved nowadays than it used to be. Perhaps it only seems that this is so; yet it is clear that there is a good deal of concern about this lack of quality. Last year the Conference Papers dealt with 'Finance, Design and Durability of Buildings'; and much that was valuable was said about maintenance. At the back of every architect's mind the thought was implicit that the buildings to be maintained should at least be worth maintaining.

The same condition applies to the preservation of buildings, that they should be worth preserving; and to new work, that it should be worth starting up the complicated machinery that constructs a building and brings it into use. So that, although our subject is wide and general and full of value-judgments, it is fundamental to our whole purpose as architects; and it is also topical. It is time we said something on the subject of initiative and control in architectural and town design, and cleared our own minds before saying it.

My part in the discussion is to outline some of the traits of character in the architecture of towns, and the ideas and attitudes connected with them. I shall be talking of architecture in four dimensions, because the architecture of places comprises not only the three linear dimensions but time as well.

Professor Matthew is going to discuss the creation of character in new work. He will discuss the application of these ideas to particular forms of housing and town building in the last 30 years. And his review will cover the inter-war, pre-war, and post-war periods of experimental and general development.

We both intend to talk mainly about Britain and British ways of building. I do not mean that all our illustrations—which we have a good many—will be limited to these islands; but examples from the Commonwealth and abroad will be used to make a point that is of use to us here.

THE SCOPE OF THE ARGUMENT

Character

Character, although it rather begs the question, is a useful word to have in this context. It conveys an idea of the quality that goes with a building or a landscape that is conceived (or at least co-ordinated) in the mind of the designer, but *lives* in the social and economic world of its time. It may, in fact, long outlive its time; and the stronger the character the longer it may do so. Most modern architects recognise, for example, the force of imagination that animated the builders of Durham Cathedral. And Language, that wonderful witch-doctor, can project the character of a human being far beyond his life. Many people today feel that they knew Dr. Johnson. Language cannot, however, do this for a building, although a poet like John Betjeman comes close to it.¹ But archaeology, television, COUNTRY LIFE, and the National Buildings Record are between them extending the longevity of buildings even after their physical demise. By the same token they are all tending to emphasise this quality of character which makes them outstanding, but which is difficult to define and impossible to pursue with a recipe.

When we say that a place has character we mean that it is able to express its personality; and what it expresses seems to us interesting and valuable.

If you are content to accept this and some other preliminary definitions for the time being, I will undertake to arrive at a more complete one later on. You will see that they are intended to exclude a large number of connected but irrelevant arguments; and this may help to keep our discussion to a few points which are all of real importance just now.

In the first place we shall be talking of *architectural* character, including civic design and the urban landscape. There are parts of towns which are brimful of personality, such as the stretch between the Tower and the Fun Fair on the front at Blackpool, but they are not architecturally significant.

Moreover, we are talking of living organisms. While Jericho or Stonehenge have plenty of character, they do not come within our definition. Furthermore, they should hold an interest for *us*, that is to say, for people living and working and building in villages, towns and cities in this country in the 1950's and 1960's.

¹ E.g. in *The English Town in the Last Hundred Years* (Rede Lecture, Cambridge, 1956).

PRESERVATION OF THE PAST, FEAR OF THE FUTURE

Right at the outset is a large question that has to be faced in defining architectural character in towns, and that is the claims of Preservation. In a sense, character is enhanced by age and maturity. It is in the natural order of things that old buildings should become rare and that a mature landscape should be more precious than one whose form and planting has only just been taken in hand. To the historian everything that has happened in the past is part of history; and the archaeologist in recent years has brought science and imagination to the study of former civilisations, making it as popular with the public as a detective story—which, indeed, it is.

Antiquarianism

In the last 100 years, however, since the preservation movement really began in this country, our attitudes towards the demolition of old work and the building of new have completely changed. Regard for what was sacred or significant, combined with untroubled confidence in altering or creating afresh for the needs of the day, has been replaced by a much more complicated set of emotions. In addition to the growth of a genuine antiquarianism, which is of great value to the modern world, there is a less authentic antiquarianism which is attracted by the old rather than the interesting. Needless to say this attitude has been commercially exploited to the full, and finds its place easily enough in a suburban environment.

Sentiment

A wealth of sentiment has also flourished for the dear days that have only just gone by, not too remote to be remembered nor so close as to be out of focus. Reminiscence has always been a human and endearing weakness; but never before has it been so highly organised, so assiduously propagated by every medium of mass communication.

In terms of building and landscape preservation, this sentiment has a certain value. It is easier now than it used to be to prevent the quite heedless destruction of architecture that is worth looking at. This country is unbelievably rich in such treasures.

Since the Planning Act of 1947 buildings of special architectural and historic interest have begun to be listed, and for these buildings you need a licence for demolition. The listing is by no means complete; yet

even now some 200 listed buildings a year are pulled down, in addition to those which become obsolete through lack of maintenance. Since 1953 the plight of these has been to a small degree relieved by grants made, on the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Councils, by the Minister of Works. The Councils try to ensure their continued use for the purpose for which they were designed—in other words to preserve them in character.

The movement for preservation, on the part of those who love old buildings either for their architectural design or as examples of social history, is wholly encouraging. This will remain so as long as the motives of preservation remain genuine. There is no doubt that the results are becoming more and more widely appreciated alike by our own public and by visitors. And it is fair to say that this movement would not have progressed even as far as it has without the backing of general sentiment which has produced a greater sensibility.

Comfort

After sentiment comes comfort—a rather less admirable guide to public conduct, though almost universal in private affairs. Comfort in matters of taste and design has assumed the proportions of a major social disaster. Comfort cannot tolerate the unfamiliar, the disturbing or the inventive. Committees and councils clutch at it in order to save themselves from thinking about anything as upsetting as a principle of design, or anything as distant as the needs of future generations. Practical men use the word *traditional* as if they thought it was a policy that had been maintained up to the time of their grandfathers, but was now incapable of renewal. And planning committees, in particular, have used the blessed word 'amenity' like a fur coat, to insulate themselves against the searching winds of originality.

To people like this, only the old and tried is comfortable; everything else is, in that minted phrase, 'injurious to amenity'—in other words, unpleasant. Architects, at certain times, resent this attitude; perhaps without realising how ingrained it has become in the national character. With few exceptions we are almost the only country in which the owner of a new house is less proud of it than the owner of an old one.

Apprehension

From preservation as a doctrine of comfort, it is a short step to preservation for fear of the future. This attitude is understandable, but none the less deplorable. It is understandable because it is so often true that some old building of character, or a whole street, is demolished to make way for something, put up in a hurry, that has no character at all, and never will have. To cut down an ancient avenue of lime or beech trees is sometimes a regrettable necessity; and it can be atoned for by planting young trees that one day will be of equal value. The difficulty in regard to buildings is that there are fewer people who will take the future on trust in the same

way. They are fearful of it, and one cannot altogether blame them.

Most of us would be more agreeable to the loss of a familiar landmark or a picturesque group of buildings if we knew that something interesting and vital were to take its place. But there can be no guarantee; and the curious fact remains that with all the safeguards and restrictions we have enacted in the name of preservation, this cardinal principle governing what might be called the responsibilities of architectural inheritance has never been formulated.

The Responsibilities of Inheritance

Now the character of places, in my definition, though initiated by the individual minds of the designers, is forged by the society and by the economy of its time. These create, in fact, the frictions which it must survive; and survival contributes to strength of character. In other words, character grows a public front and becomes to some extent a public possession. Herein lies the strength of the argument that it should be made difficult, by law and by public opinion, to take the character of a place away. The anomaly is that when such a decision is seen to be unavoidable, *no steps are taken to place a responsibility on the owner or developer of the cleared site to ensure that new character has a good chance to grow.*

For a real opportunity to be made two things are wanted: a client who cares, and a designer who is sensitive to the nature of the problem. Only too often the new owner looks no further than convenience, utility or short-term financial return (and there is no requirement that he should do otherwise); and the architect, if there is one, produces a hackneyed design, quite unsuited to the needs of the occasion. If you doubt this consider some of the most characteristic buildings of the past in your own town, and look at what has replaced them. In London, for example, seek out the sites of a round dozen of Wren's City Churches demolished *before* the Blitz, or at Robert Adam's *Adelphi* or at Berkeley Square. In Newcastle ask what would adequately replace Holy Jesus Hospital, or the Royal Arcade; and in scores of pre-war and post-war suburbs or housing estates (with some admirable exceptions) note what has happened to the historic country house and its park that might have provided social and aesthetic relief to a now monotonous landscape. You will probably agree that there is some foundation for the fears of preservationists who echo Hilaire Belloc's off-quoted rhyme,² even though you know very well that fear is a poor motive for any action to improve our environment, as it is essentially non-creative.

One of the underlying causes of trouble seems to us comparatively simple. It is that there is a great deal of confusion between the functions of administration and those of design. On the preservation of historic buildings many voices must

obviously be heard—politicians and other public men and women, art-historians and archivists, the National Trust, amenity societies, local authorities, owners and occupiers—with their estate managers, lawyers and agents. And although advice would be needed from architects and other designers on questions of authenticity and structure and planting and so on, the final decision to be taken is essentially an administrative one.

But when the decision hinges on possible alternatives, or on what kind of architecture could replace the historic building in question, *only a trained architectural eye and imagination can provide the answer.*

Yet in a considerable number of cases that are known, and possibly in more that are unknown, the technical decisions on what can be preserved, what altered, and what replaced, are taken by people without any experience in design and construction. What is more, architects can recognise normal and exceptional decay in a structure (and if they do not, the last Conference Papers must have helped to enlighten them). By comparing standards of maintenance with those of design and of layout, they can analyse the character of a building or a building group in ways that may escape the layman altogether.

This excursion into the pro's and con's of preservation has been a necessary preliminary to any discussion on the character of places, because all town environments are composed of old and new. The proportions, however, vary enormously. Many small towns and villages have nothing of any consequence that has been built in this century. The central area of a large town (e.g. the City of London) may have a quarter of all its buildings 30 years old or less. Some industrial towns have completely renewed their central buildings in the course of a century. Even the New Towns have existing village nuclei, and for the most part they sit in developed, if not mature, landscapes.

Nearly all new design must, therefore, be backward-looking to some extent, since the limitations of site, programme, and environmental character are the framework within which the design grows. An equally important question is, how far can it be forward-looking as well?

AMENITY AND UTILITY

In this matter also there are different methods of approach. Broadly speaking there are two views of what town and country may become—landscapes of amenity or landscapes of technology. Those who strive for amenity try to find harmony in all things, in building forms and local materials, in humanist principles of building composition and in an agricultural countryside, in pictorial qualities reminiscent of Cotman and the early Turner. When driven to make a hard choice they will ultimately prefer mock-Tudor and leaded lights to metal-framed plate glass, because the former 'harmonises' and the latter does not. They are against advertisements for the simple reason that these are

² '... So always keep a hold on Nurse,
For fear of getting something worse.'

designed to draw attention to themselves, and they object to skyscrapers on the same principle. They protest valiantly against tree-felling and against every kind of mast or overhead wire, and are perplexed by motorways and car parks, and the general impact of the motor-car on towns, favouring restriction and control.

The producers and the pioneers, on the other hand, as well as most children, are attracted by some aspects of the landscape of technology, and are thrilled by the idea of space travel. They are interested in the motor-car, not only for itself but for the power and freedom it can give under favourable conditions; and they want to improve these conditions and to design fully motorised towns. They admire big dams and high buildings, reinforced concrete bridges and nuclear reactors, and the contrast these afford to the familiar buildings and the more settled landscapes in which they have been brought up. They want to come to terms with them, as Brunel did with his broad-gauge railway from Paddington to Bristol, which he engineered with such skill and artistry over a 100 years ago.

It may occur to you that the character of our environment is likely to be split in two by this schizophrenia.

But between the two extremes there is every grade of intermediate opinion; and what is even more complicated, different attitudes are held by the same person, at various times of his life. Sometimes, also, they depend on the particular activity with which he is concerned at the moment.

In relation to housing Mr. Eric Lyons³ recently put forward three possible courses of administrative action. The first was to prohibit speculative building and restrict housing to local authorities: this he called the politician's solution. The second was aesthetic control under town planning powers; which he thought, on the whole, had not worked at all well so far. The third was the extensive and full use of architects. He hoped that this would become the architect's answer to a baffling problem; and personally I agree with him.

But an architect as such might be expected to appreciate both points of view—amenity and utility—and also understand how to create the former while attending to the latter. In other words, it is his proper function to look both backwards and forwards. Moreover, there can be design in the grouping of buildings as well as in single ones; and it has always been one of the greatest of architectural faculties to produce a unity of visual character out of what might otherwise be a collection of parts—monotonous or muddled. In *throwing away aesthetic control of every sort we throw away the possibility of designing a town, or a coherent part of it*. This country has a long history, notably at the time of urban estate development by the great landlords, when architects and surveyors and engineers were quite used to putting forward one day a design of their own for

a particular work—even speculatively on occasion—and the next day co-ordinating and criticising the designs of others in the interests of the estate as a whole. There are, after all, private and public aspects of civic architecture, just as there are of a citizen's behaviour.

The important thing is that both the small and the great design should be in the hands of those who know what they are doing. This means, in aesthetic matters, those who know how to design; and in administrative matters those who understand the true economy of the undertaking and know how to draw up a programme.

Outrage and After

It is also fortunate that the shock tactics of the campaign against subtopia have appealed to the more thoughtful elements on both sides, and at the same time have opened the eyes of many people who had become blind to the contradictions of what was happening all around them. They had reached what Sir John Wolfenden described⁴ as '... that stage of anaesthesia which may well be Nature's safeguard for those of us who live in suburbia'.

Both types of landscape—the traditional and the technological—suffer from the disorders and interferences, the fakes and the clutter, that Ian Nairn and Gordon Cullen have pilloried in *Outrage*. This clutter represents not only the absence but the madly organised denial of character.

But indignation is not enough, as the authors of *Counter Attack* have set out to prove.

It would be a great pity if, in attempting to stir the conscience of people who do not care in the least about the accumulated ill effects of our more and more mechanised existence, the campaign were to raise a great deal of prejudice against the work of those who care a great deal, and are therefore trying to transform the thoughtless and the ugly into something of positive interest and character.

In the first place it can do none of us any good to write off these ill-effects as transitory or negligible, or even tolerable. They are not. In its size or multiplication, as well as in its character, the physical consequences for our environment of the apparatus of modern science, industry and commerce, coupled as it is with almost universal population growth, creates a most formidable problem.

Somehow or other we shall have to come to terms with it. We cannot run away from it or shut it out altogether. And we should not underrate it. On the other hand, we have some centuries of architectural experience to draw on; and this might help us when we make a concerted attempt to treat these mechanistic landscapes and cityscapes as capable of acquiring a character that is not only human but visually moving.

The Problem of Scale

My own feeling is that the first and most useful exercise is to break down the problem in terms of scale. Modern archi-

tecture has adopted the module, but has lost hold of scale. I mean scale in the medieval sense, whereby steps (the Italians word for which is *scale*), and mouldings, and the life-sized figures round the porches, gave a human measure to the aspiring godlike structures of vault, tower and spire with which they were contrasted.

The classical orders (as many writers have pointed out) related the part to the whole but in a strictly modular fashion.⁵ A colossal temple had colossal columns, an outside door, and a stylobate to match.

I often think that the wide appeal of Georgian and especially Regency domestic architecture is precisely its combination of scale with the module. The balusters and railings, the flat brick arches and the rusticated stone, and the windows of living rooms and bedrooms, are just as modular as the actual or implied Corinthian order; but they are themselves relatively small and so they succeed in maintaining the human scale. However large the mansion, its design is comprehensible. The scale may increase to the heroic and the inconvenient—as at Blenheim—but never to the supernatural.

But a good many of the mechanical structures and services of today are supernatural in this sense—the high-speed lift as compared with the staircase, the cooling tower, the 750-ft. television mast, the exterior cladding of the U.N. Secretariat, which gives no clue, until you go inside it, of the way it relates to the human scale. These structures do not conform to a tidy aesthetic. They are outside the rules regulating subtopian behaviour.

Sometimes the module is repeated monotonously, without any sense of control, like a damaged gramophone record, or a filing cabinet between mirrors, endlessly recurring. Sometimes the structure is unintelligible to the ordinary observer, with no apparent relation between function and effect—like the inside of a wireless cabinet. And sometimes the dimensions are so huge that they impress the spectator without kindling any human emotion.

At the other end of the scale are the small things—lighting standards, post-and-wire fences, distribution poles and overhead lines, television aerials, direction signs, vent pipes. Singly they make little impact on the consciousness; but as they accumulate a sort of backyard atmosphere is set up in which pride of appearance becomes awkward, unprofitable and eventually useless. (There seems to be a psychological law by which irritation increases according to the square of the number of objects.) These are the first objectives of *Counter Attack*.

The complete architectural approach to this problem, however, must surely be to distinguish first of all between the near and the distant view; to humanise the small things, and—if this is impossible—camouflage them, enclose them, put them underground. In the distant view the object should be simplified as far as possible, particularly in silhouette, and given an atmospheric tone that suits its background

³ 'Domestic Building and Speculative Development' (Paper read at the R.I.B.A. on 25.3.58. JOURNAL, May 1958).

⁴ 'The Architect's Role in Society' (Paper read at the R.I.B.A. on 4.3.58. JOURNAL, April 1958).

⁵ See, for example, Hans Blumenfeld: 'Scale in Civic Design' (TOWN PLANNING REVIEW, April 1953).

character, leaving the sheer structure, shape or height to make its own impression.

The monumental and carefully detailed building of the medieval or renaissance periods may become, in certain urban settings, a comparatively small-scale jewelled object in a large-scale anonymous and contrasting setting. This has happened to Trinity Church at the foot of Wall Street in New York. But it must be confessed that in the intermediate stage the effect may be clumsy. The decorative tower of St. Stephen's Walbrook had already been somewhat dominated by the Mansion House, with its additional storey. Now both are overburdened by the new Bucklersbury House, too close and too big to be composed with them, but not lofty or unassertive enough to provide an effectively contrasting background.

In a new power station, however, as Matthew will tell you, an effective contrast can be designed from the start, between the great super-normal bulk of the boiler-house and chimney (or the nuclear reactor) on the one hand, and the more intimate administration and welfare buildings which in scale and character provide the human foil. (Frankland Dark designed an almost baroque canteen in front of the huge generating station at Marchwood.)

The television mast on the Crystal Palace site looks admirable as a sheer structural web of tapering form, its head often disappearing into cloud. And curiously enough it provides an unexpected but most successful termination to a large number of street views in South London which would otherwise be of extreme subtopian dullness.

I have a theory, which I know is not shared by everyone, that the big electricity pylons carrying 275 kW overhead lines can march in a purposeful way across even highly developed landscapes, provided they tread with care; while the smaller distribution lines, particularly when combined with telephone wires, aerials, angle towers and sub-stations are intolerably untidy. I would rather see a great deal of care and money spent on reducing the small-scale clutter to order, by architectural and industrial design methods, and leave the great artifacts to achieve their own severe functional beauty without attempting to give them a so-called 'harmonious' character.

To sum up: I believe that we can come to terms with the landscape of technology if we distinguish between the scale and character of what can be successfully handled by humanist methods and what must be left to develop from scientific premises. This does not mean, of course, that mechanical structures should not be designed, but that the design should be based in the first place on the aesthetics of sheer engineering efficiency. Location, and the necessary space for effective contrasts to be made, are therefore all-important. And, if I am right, this is the main lesson to be learnt at the moment from the U.S.A.⁶

⁶ See Basil Taylor: 'America versus Subtopia' (THE LISTENER, 6.2.58).

TOWN CHARACTER AND THE MOTOR-CAR

The impact of the motor-car on the architectural character of towns has to be considered separately. For whereas the changes brought about by new attitudes to preservation, amenity and industry have evolved gradually, the technical and social changes introduced by the motor-car are revolutionary. No one can yet calculate their effect on the town. Many people think it may be mortal.

Discussing the inadequacies of the 'precinct' in its application to existing towns, Colin Buchanan in his recent book on the motor in Britain⁷ suggests that '... the revolution that has been overtaking us is surely that the motor vehicle has become an article of everyday use, a substitute for legs for walking and arms for carrying. People want motors everywhere, and the real problem seems to be to arrange not for their diversion but for their peaceful penetration to every part of the town.'

But peaceful penetration to every part of every town would mean a complete surrender of character, for there is nothing so characterless as an open car park in every street and every open space and in front of every building.

What methods are available then for coping with this problem of urban traffic, which cannot be separated from the problem of urban building, and which is certain to become at least twice as severe in the next ten years?

The most effective solution is undoubtedly the physical separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic at different levels. Buchanan suggests this for Oxford Street, London; and I have proposed it, in a small way, for the immediate surroundings of St. Paul's Cathedral, on the north and west sides. It is also the most important and the most essential feature of the redevelopment of the Barbican area, which is now proceeding, that the ground-floor level should be generally given over to traffic, parking, deliveries and access, and that the pedestrian ways, shop windows and counter space should be at the level of the first-floor slab.

I believe this is a better system than sinking the roads below ground level or, in the main, elevating them on viaducts. But as Buchanan remarks, 'As a practical basis for town design, it has never really had the slightest consideration'.

It was obviously in Donald Gibson's mind at Coventry when he designed the upper precinct on two levels (and how unfortunate it is that the shops have had to be divided vertically). But in Broadgate (where buses are so frequent that they conceal Lady Godiva more effectively than her hair) he has had to compromise with the existing situation by putting the pedestrians into tunnels—the only instance I can recall, with the exception of Rome, where the pedestrians seem to enjoy them.

But it must be agreed that the opportunities for making this separation of level

⁷ *Mixed Blessing: the Motor in Britain* (Leonard Hill, 1958).

are severely limited at present. The small town could not afford to do it unless, as at Chester, it boasted historic precedent already. In a town where at least three-quarters of all existing central buildings are to be preserved for their character or their utility, at least during the planable future, the scheme would be disruptive and unpopular and difficult to finance.

Only in new towns, and in areas of war damage or comprehensive redevelopment, will the opportunity present itself. It is therefore extremely important that these two-level experiments should be made and that they should be carefully designed. Experience in American double-level shopping centres demonstrates how much skill is required to make a scheme attractive to suppliers, retailers and shoppers alike. In an old town, where traditional ground-level accommodation is an established competitor, the development of new designs with separate levels of movement is even more difficult.

The partial approach has, however, one advantage: it can be extended without disruption of the existing road system. Improvements can take place in parallel, on the ground level for traffic movement and parking, and on the upper level for pedestrian circulation and enjoyment. As the system on the upper level is improved and extended, a new dimension will be added to the pedestrian view. It is one thing to stand on a pavement or a traffic island at street level to watch building operations, or a procession, or arrivals at a function. It is quite another to look down from a safe vantage-point at what is going on below. You must have noticed lunch-hour crowds watching the excavation of a new building site. Many *entrepreneurs* have catered for this kind of urban fascination by providing viewing platforms off the pavement, as in the case of the new American Embassy in Grosvenor Square.

It is obvious that a complete town system at two levels will take time to evolve and will not be appropriate everywhere. So we must look to planning controls of various kinds to help reduce the frictions of space.

In spite of economic restrictions, and of roads that must continue to be all-purpose, some improvements can be achieved by methods already known to town planners, transport boards, municipal engineers and the police. Here is a list of some of them:

- (a) reduction in the long-distance journey to work, by breaking down or restricting big concentrations of employment in the central areas of towns, and thus reducing rush-hour traffic;
- (b) creation of 'traffic precincts' by classifying and improving the existing road patterns in built-up areas, eliminating through traffic from service roads and standing vehicles from through roads;
- (c) as a corollary to this (since through traffic in town centres is seldom substantial), the grouping of similar activities together by use-zoning;

- (d) as a further corollary, the provision of sufficient parking space within private curtilages or public car parks to take standing cars off all but minor and residential roads;
- (e) increasing restrictions on parking and on the entry of private cars into certain streets and forecourts—and even into limited sectors of the town itself—coupled with improved convenience, comfort and speed in public transport vehicles.
- (f) technical improvements in traffic control, traffic flow, and road safety. These usually entail street widenings, splayed corners, and more apparatus and notices.

It will be seen that these restraining influences add nothing to the appearance of towns and create no new visual delights; nevertheless they may be essential to prevent the urban scene from losing what character it already has.

The City at Night

Even the rush-hour has its compensating calm. There is an urban counterpart to the wide open spaces of the country, in the deserted arenas of the metropolis. Anyone who has explored the City of London on late summer evenings and on Sundays, or returned to one of the Livery Halls after 6 p.m., when the crowds have gone and the cats and the caretakers are stretching themselves and paying their social calls, must have felt this curious, unforgettable fascination.

Will Fyfe sang of Saturday night '... when Glasgow belongs to me'. That was the convivial, riotous escape from toil and tension. But there is another escape—all the sweeter for being transient—when one gets away from the queue and the insistent pressure of the day and enters into possession of a city which is remote yet friendly, at the same time exciting, tranquil and faintly mysterious. There is nothing morbid in these sensations, and this is mainly because one knows that the rush will start again tomorrow morning. Just as the wild country of the National Park provides the contrast of place, the city at leisure provides a contrast in time. And what a satisfying contrast it can be. How much can be achieved also, by a moderate expenditure of electric current, in flood-lighting, spotlighting or softly illuminating a few objects of interesting shape or relief, isolating them against a velvet background. Whether it is the dome of St. Paul's, a solitary plane tree in a city square, a small piece of sculpture, or a decorative street lantern, this is the time when the beauty rather than the utility of illumination can come into its own, and wirescape can be forgotten.

SOME CONCLUSIONS

I have now come round to a further definition of what it is that makes and mars the character of places. It seems that character, or personality, comes partly from what one is born with, and partly

from one's conduct towards life and other people. In the same way our environment derives partly from the initial design of buildings and landscape and utilities, and partly from the way in which people use them. The latter includes their attitude towards preservation and new work, and their acceptance or otherwise of new discoveries and new techniques.

One attribute of character in places therefore depends almost entirely on the imagination and capacity of architects, engineers, landscape designers and those who initiate development; and of these Matthew will speak in a moment. The other is part of a much wider social attitude, towards which the designer contributes but for which he is not directly responsible.

'Can architects cure Subtopia?' asked Eric de Maré recently at the Architectural Association;⁸ and answered 'No—not, that is, purely as architects, though architects could do a great deal as intelligent human beings who understand what is happening to us all. . . . And he ended by quoting Eric Gill:

'Art is that work and that way of working in which man uses his free will. A civilisation based upon the doctrine of free will naturally and inevitably produces artists. In such a civilisation all men are artists and so there is no need to talk about it.'

I suggest that the reason why we need to talk about it at this Conference is that there is far too little freedom of expression, too little choice, too few opportunities for the thoughtful, meaningful selection of those objects and materials, forms, and methods which create design. Therefore, character is being drained away from our surroundings; and in at least one sector of our activities we tend to develop a sense of frustration.

I think it is very largely this sense of frustration which has led to some of the results I have tried to describe—to preservation for its own sake, to vague fears for the future coupled with a complete lack of connection between what is demolished and what is put in its place; to loss of interest in one's surroundings and escape into a world of radio, or space travel, or entertainment, leaving the workaday world to become more subtopian every day; to failure to come to terms with the progressive demands of a new technology, especially the impact of the motor-car on towns, and to evolve a new aesthetic to meet it; most of all, perhaps, to confusion between the objects of planning *as an art*, which is to create better designs for living, and the object of planning as part of social administration, which is to conserve the land resources of this country as its trustees for the future.

There are great benefits to be had from an accepted planning system which sets up standards of land use and land development, just as a true economy of building cannot be achieved without standards of cost and performance. Regulation is a feature common to both. But it is the very essence of design that, taking full advantage of standardisation, it nevertheless *differ-*

entiates between one building and another, one place and another. Without this, town planning becomes a characterless activity; control without an object.

On the other hand, when ends and means are properly connected, they can lead to an immense liberation of energy. The replacement of the traditional craftsman by machine tools and factory production makes it really urgent to find new exercises in design and expression which will train the eye to appreciate, to discriminate, and eventually to encourage or superintend original work.

It may very well be that the flowering time for this kind of growth in our own century still lies ahead. What progress has been made in creating new work of character in the past 30 years or so is the subject of Matthew's paper that follows.

Creation of Character in New Work

Professor Robert H. Matthew, C.B.E., M.A., A.R.S.A. [F]

PROFESSOR HOLFORD in his paper has drawn attention to some of the outstanding aspects of the urban tradition in this country; my complementary task is to give you the basis for a discussion on the creation of character in new work, and this has led me to write this paper in the nature of a review of the more important contributions to architectural environment during the last 35 years or so. This more or less coincides with my own architectural life and memory, but more importantly, represents a period, since the end of the first war, of exceptional activity in the history of town development. It is not without relevance to note that it has been a time of almost continuous national uncertainty and confusion.

The economic disasters of the early 'thirties and the Second World War increased rather than decreased the necessity for imaginative thinking in the scale of town planning. Although the building industry has suffered extreme fluctuations from almost complete standstill to full and over-full employment, the period under review has produced new building on an unprecedented scale. At the same time, social conditions have considerably changed the terms of reference within which the architect must operate. The development of the Welfare State and of the petrol engine are two factors only among many that have altered the character of urban life.

In these papers we have accepted a limitation of definition, and the following notes have been written round the idea of 'Architectural Character'. It is, of course, appreciated that the aesthetics of town design cannot easily be separated from

⁸ See A.A. JOURNAL, March 1958.

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replaced narrow fronted two- and three-storey terraces. In Scotland, massive stone tenements (with bathrooms) replaced massive stone tenements (without bathrooms), with no obvious change in the general pattern.

Taking the country as a whole, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that, between the wars, urban character deteriorated. The conditions under which character could be renewed hardly seemed to have been seriously examined. Economic circumstances, no doubt, forced most architects to think primarily in terms of individual buildings; there is little evidence of collective thought, still less action, on the wider problems of town building. In the academic world, essays in town development were influenced either by the tail-end of the Beaux Arts tradition, or by the new suburban housing estates in Germany and Holland—character analyses of our own towns did not, as a rule, figure in the curricula; post-graduate study hardly existed.

2. PRE-WAR EXPERIMENT

This section will necessarily be brief. It may be that much more work of an experimental kind was actually built in this country before the war than is noted below, and I apologise in advance if notable omissions have been made. In the 'thirties, reports and illustrations of new essays in housing and community planning in several European countries continually fed the imagination. The excitement of visits to Germany, Holland, Switzerland and Scandinavia, and contacts made with practising architects and students was only matched by a dismal sense of anti-climax on returning to this country, where little seemed to happen. The 'Zeilenbau' of Frankfurt and Berlin, impeccably planned with schools, shopping groups and apparently quickly maturing gardens; the smaller-scale Dutch housing estates, trim and colourful; the sparkling flats at Zürich and Stockholm—all these seemed to open up a new world of urban quality that only very faintly echoed in this country.

Experiment at home seemed mainly in housing—we remember slum-clearance groups by the City Architect of Liverpool, Lancelot Keay; the Quarry Hill flats at Leeds, notable for their introduction of the Garchy system; a small block of flats built in concrete by Emberton in Stepney; a few blocks of flats by the L.C.C. that had departed from the Georgian tradition, but remained similar in layout; Lutyens' chequer-board flats in Horseferry Road. In Scotland, there was, literally, nothing.

In the suburbs, the development of the Wythenshawe estate by the City of Manchester, gave promise of a fresh outlook. The parkway, for through traffic, was intelligently landscaped, in contrast to the normal dismal conception of highway engineering. Houses, while conservative in design, were pleasantly grouped; existing trees and hedges were retained wherever possible, a condition laid down by the Simon Estate on transference to the City Corporation. In consequence, the new

development had the appearance of maturing quickly, avoiding the bleak unfriendliness of most large-scale fringe housing. At that time, many housing authorities appeared to find it necessary, before building, to make a wholesale clearance of trees and hedgerows, as though natural growth was a disease to be excised before the land was fit to be occupied. The planning of Wythenshawe included some features, unusual at the time, later to be widely used; the routing of main traffic clear of the residential groups; separation of foot and cycle paths from the line of the highway; provision of shops, schools, etc., at neighbourhood centres; the allocation of areas within the estate for development by private enterprise, for housing and industry.

In the later 'thirties a few more individual buildings of interest appeared: Wells Coates's Lawn Road flats; the first point blocks at Highpoint by Tecton, and their community centre in Finsbury; the Guinness Trust flats by Maxwell Fry; in Scotland, Thomas Tait planned a 'new town' at Dumfries, on lines not greatly different from the New Towns of today.

Outside the field of housing, experiments in the creation of urban character are difficult to find. The new civic centres referred to above were anything but experimental. Commercial buildings followed existing plot lines, retiring here and there to make way for road widenings where traffic congestion became intolerable. Building heights, with one or two exceptions, remained as before. The towers of London University and No. 55 Broadway gave a hint of a new technique in redeveloping central sites: both of these required special dispensation from the L.C.C., being over 100 ft. This was given only on the condition that the top floors remained unoccupied, a restriction that was removed many years later.

In general, conditions were unfavourable to experiment. The town remained in the centre much the same, growing older and more inconvenient as traffic increased.

3. POST-WAR PLANNING

Planning Standards: The research vacuum existing in the architectural world around 1918 had a deep and unfortunate effect on the nature and quality of the new urban environments created during the inter-war period. This criticism could not be made after World War II. Although there is still no firm tradition in this country for academic research in architecture or civic design, the Ministries and the Building Research Station undertook a series of studies in the course of a few years (commencing during the war), that, taken together, have profoundly influenced the way in which progressive development has since taken place.

Among the first studies having a lasting influence on post-war development are probably those contained in the County of London Plan, by Professor Abercrombie and the Architect to the Council, J. H. Forshaw, published in 1943, dealing with

community and neighbourhood planning, densities, classification and segregation of traffic; the principle of the precinct. While some of these ideas have been modified in the light of practice, most of these formed the basis for urban studies, and the County Plan still remains a classic textbook.

The Advisory Handbook on the Re-development of Central Areas, issued by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, and now out of print, became available in the summer of 1947. Its dry, anonymous introduction reads:

'It is felt that Local Authorities and others concerned may wish to have, in supplementation of the statutory and procedural framework provided by Acts, Regulations and Circulars, some broad indication of the views of the Ministry on how to handle the problems arising in the sphere of practical planning. . . .'

This is a deceptively prosaic description of the nature of that memorable manual. Some of the best architectural talent in the country has examined the principal physical problems likely to be met in replanning existing town centres. The techniques and standards suggested, opened up a new world of spatial relationships, based on the practical study of the problem of increasing the efficiency of accommodation, and of traffic flow. Plot ratios and daylight factors are now everyday tools at the disposal of the designer; only a decade ago such logical aids did not exist.

The diagrammatic models illustrating the application of the new standards suggested, had, as far as I am aware, little parallel in pre-war building in this country, but a glance through the record in the last few years shows the effect of this theoretical work on recent practice, in spite of the slow progress of comprehensive redevelopment. I notice that the 1958 re-issue of the Scottish Housing Handbook No. 1, illustrates a number of housing groups either built, or building, whose general form and character clearly derive from this and the many subsequent published studies. There is little resemblance between the ground patterns of most of the developments illustrated and anything we were accustomed to in the field of public housing before the war.

Planning Control

While no one is likely to question the value of systematic study in relation to the many factors affecting urban development or to fail to appreciate the exceptional work carried out by official departments in this country, including the Building Research Station, the extent to which the application of theory to practice becomes mandatory on the individual architect is a matter of the highest concern. This has obviously varied greatly among planning authorities; in some directions, e.g. control of total bulk of building by the determination of maximum plot ratios, little exception can reasonably be taken to the insistence on principles which are clearly necessary to improve physical conditions.

The precise point where principle begins

and ends is, however, not so simple; the control of the external appearance of buildings by planning authorities is a matter on which there is more than one view. What is not in doubt is that such control can determine character in a decisive way. The phrase used in the Handbook referred to above is as follows:—

'A wisely exercised control of external appearance should allow individual developers considerable freedom of decision concerning the block form and height of their buildings and at the same time ensure that the composition and general effect of a street would possess both the balance and a reasonable measure of continuity and cohesion. . . .'

This is not an unreasonable view, but the ultimate architectural quality achieved in any given case is completely dependent on the degree of wisdom employed in the exercise of control. Extreme positions can be taken in both directions; my own inclination is towards the greatest possible degree of individual freedom, but at the same time this should include the possibility, indeed the desirability, of a planning authority—provided it is advised by a competent architect—itsself creating an imaginative piece of townscape, where circumstances warrant it—i.e. in an area where comprehensive rebuilding is likely to take place. I do not feel that any architect could reasonably feel unduly restricted, if, say, he were asked to design one of the buildings forming part of Holford's general scheme for St. Paul's precinct. The L.C.C. as planning authority has prepared, in model form, projects for a number of areas of comprehensive development within which single buildings or groups of buildings will subsequently be designed; I have no doubt that while the general lines will be retained, there would at the same time be considerable freedom for the individual developer.

Policy, in this regard, varies greatly between planning authorities; it is a matter of importance that the techniques of collaboration between the authority and subsequent developers should be established in such a way that the ultimate result will, in all its aspects, be a positive contribution to town-planning: I put the word techniques deliberately in the plural.

Advisory Plans

During the war and immediately after it, advisory plans were prepared for many cities and towns throughout the country, anticipating the resumption of building and of new opportunities to redevelop on a substantial scale; most of these plans were prepared by architects: nearly all included some comprehensive redevelopment, with more or less precise indications, by way of sketches and models, of suggested architectural character. It is easy now to criticise these anticipatory essays in town development. No doubt the circumstances of the time caused architectural statements to appear that the client's briefs (if they existed at all!) hardly justified; their quality varied enormously, and per-

haps owed more to the skill of the draughtsman than anything else, but I propose to illustrate one or two widely differing conceptions of urban character, as expressed at that time. The statutory plans ultimately prepared by the planning authorities, frequently based on the advisory schemes (which were usually accompanied by extremely competent surveys), necessarily give much less indication of architectural character (sometimes none at all), especially where areas of comprehensive redevelopment were outlined without detailed proposals.

In general, the opportunities for re-making the older town areas, that at one time seemed likely after the war, only occurred to a small extent. Even in London it has been estimated that less than 10 per cent of the area of the County was accounted for in 1949 by war damage, temporary buildings and vacant land available for building. The Great Fire of 1666 probably did proportionately more damage in London than the war-time raids on any English city.

In addition, it must be said that the general climate of public opinion still remains, on the whole, more discouraging to change than to the maintenance of the familiar environment. The fear of change is frequently expressed in terms of respect for continuity and tradition. It is seldom remembered that the most persistent tradition in the history of the development of towns is just this capacity for change, in face of changing needs, as the essential means of survival.

This resistance to change is by no means peculiar to this country. In France, where, in some cases, war damage approached total devastation, the opportunity occurred to create an entirely new urban pattern, but the pre-war plan has tended to re-emerge (with perhaps minor modifications), even to the detailed restoration of individual buildings.

4. POST-WAR BUILDING

This paper deals with the *architectural character* of towns, and therefore refers to individual buildings only in so far as they may be held to contribute to character, which is equally concerned with the nature and treatment of the spaces in and about buildings; in short, with spatial relationships over which the single architect will have varying degrees of control.

As I am dealing specifically with the creation of character in new work (the title is not my own!), the years since the war might be imagined as the richest quarries for this very subject—fifteen New Towns (even Leonardo would have appreciated the scale of this imaginative undertaking); the bombed and obsolescent town centres 'ripe for redevelopment'; programmes for housing, education, health, industry and power production; in total, a vast bulk of building; most of it located in towns or at any rate in urban areas.

Apart, however, from the special category of housing, all this has added up to remarkably little in terms of significant

change of character. Some of the reasons for this have already been given and much has been written about opportunities missed since the war; it is not part of my task to dwell on what might have been done; at the same time, it may be remembered that in spite of the very great extent of recent building, opportunities on a great scale still exist. Furthermore, as I hope to illustrate, sufficient has already been achieved to suggest a basis for the future. This could hardly have been said 20 years ago.

Probably too much has been expected, but taking it at its lowest, the average housing group, whatever its faults, since the war, is to my mind a more cheerful environment than its counterpart two decades ago, and this is some indication of a general movement. Cheerfulness is not a quality that architects in the immediate past have been conspicuously successful in achieving! As a desideratum it appeared to come low in the scale. It would seem, if I can make a generalisation, that in the last few years, and mainly through housing, some sense of human quality (even mild gaiety) is beginning to creep back into the townscape.

This has been particularly noticeable in school buildings; the sombre atmosphere of the pre-war school has almost completely disappeared; for the most part, new school buildings are a colourful and friendly element in the urban scene. While the university campus cannot, in general, be said to glow in the warmth of architectural distinction, Casson's Arts Faculty at Cambridge, and Martin's layout for Leicester give promise that even here a new view of appropriate character may be on the way. (Many outstanding academic personalities still appear unwilling to acknowledge the influence of material surroundings. Sir Eric Ashby, speaking at the R.I.B.A. recently,⁹ remarked—'the vitality of a modern university could be maintained entirely independently of the quality of its architecture'. (Note the implications of the word 'entirely'.))

The Collegiate Tradition

The consequential effects of the character of early university buildings is often forgotten today. The influence of the English collegiate layout, through the 18th-century commercial houses, with living quarters above, ultimately produced the 19th-century office block, with the quiet internal lawn shrunk to the scale of the light-well, as demands for floor space on limited sites added height. Is it altogether fanciful to see, in some groups of recent building, a return to the essential quality of the older collegiate tradition? The Lever solution is not so very different; the former decorative tower has been made usable, to take the overspill in floor space from the reduced bulk of the podium; the courtyard again becomes an amenity.

This approach to planning has two effects; first, to bring back human scale into large units of building; second, to open

⁹ At the R.I.B.A. Symposium on the *Design of Teaching Laboratories*, 14 March 1958. (JOURNAL, April 1958.)

up new possibilities in handling mass. This second point is especially important today, with the growth in size, for administrative and other reasons, of certain classes of buildings, e.g. technical colleges and hospitals. The hospital group recently planned by Powell and Moya with Richard Llewelyn Davies at Slough, and the Science Building for Liverpool University by Basil Spence are good illustrations of the breakdown of the great block, into smaller and contrasting masses. This inevitably brings tall buildings into the picture.

Tall Buildings

With the single exception of the Old Town of Edinburgh, we have been, historically, in this country, conservative in the matter of height. It has been estimated that even today, three-quarters of London's buildings are four storeys or less, although it was not until 1894 that the L.C.C. took power to limit height.

Every week new projects are published for tall buildings, from many parts of the country. So far, I have only seen one statement by a planning authority (Memorandum on High Buildings, by the L.C.C. Planning Committee, in 1956) relating to this subject.

Holford, in his plan for St. Paul's precinct, before it was revised, has shown how tall building, carefully sited in relation to others, can be deeply moving. To prohibit tall building would surely throw away an asset of great potential value. The question of control is, however, raised in acute form and cannot be evaded. I, personally, do not see how, unless the planning authority takes a positive initiative, chaos can be avoided.

The questions put by the L.C.C. Planning Committee to developers, who wish to build over the permitted 100 ft., while they do not constitute a positive policy, do give an indication that the assessment of the individual case will be made against a wide background. The point is specifically conceded that '... in London there are a number of situations where a high building might make a positive contribution to the urban scene ...' while at the same time there is the warning that in other places the introduction of high buildings might be 'detrimental'. In the absence of specific proposals by the planning authority (as now in the making for Notting Hill Gate and other areas) onus is meantime on the developer to show that the site is, from all points of view, suitable for high building.

This seems a sensible interim statement (I have, with the designs for New Zealand House, now had personal experience of answering the questions in the memorandum, and arguing the case for 200 ft.; I am bound to say that I recognise the necessity to do so), but it would seem highly desirable, that at all key points, the planning authority itself should be in a position to make positive proposals for the guidance of individual developers. The degree of flexibility allowed by such a procedure, would, I have no doubt, be a measure of success, but, given that the planning authority uses outstanding talent on the

preparation of the overall scheme, there would seem to be little reason why the individual architect, who may be concerned with part only of the whole, should feel inhibited in making his individual contribution.

The New Towns

The New Towns have not been lacking critics. Some of these have already written them off as 'failures', even in their first decade of existence. 'Everything about New Towns is new' wrote Lord Silkin; character on this scale takes time to mature. The Reith Committee saw, in these great new developments, a chance to experiment in the creation of a variety of environments; in this sense some disappointment may be justified, but it may be remembered now that the prototype suggested by Abercrombie in the Greater London plan represented progressive thought at that time. The sketches by Peter Shephard in 1944 have fairly accurately foreshadowed subsequent development, which in general has followed the theoretical conception of a town centre serving a number of residential groups, each with its local facilities; an industrial zone; some measure of traffic segregation; a linked system of open spaces.

Criticism has been mainly directed to two points; the low density and too-open character of the residential areas (Abercrombie's gross density of 30 persons to the acre is almost identical with Ebenezer Howard's Garden City figure) and second, to the slow development of the town centres. As to the first, it is obvious that very large scale landscaping will be necessary to give a sense of unity, and this cannot be rapidly attained. There is also a danger that over-ample space may invite piecemeal infilling at a later date. The delay in building the town centres is regrettable. Ideally, the New Town should start with its core of public buildings. In practice this has not been possible, and the New Towns are, therefore, almost entirely suburban in character at the present time. A start is now being made, however, and from published drawings and models, it would seem that the qualities aimed at are those of informal enclosure, modest scale, variety and interest. Some of the neighbourhood centres already built have, in a small way, achieved this kind of personality rarely found in housing areas before the war.

In general, I find many interesting housing groups, an uncommon attention to landscaping, and some excellent design. At Cwmbran and Glenrothes there is a sense of regional quality in the materials used. It is reported that at Cumbernauld, the last New Town started in Scotland, densities will be appreciably higher, a policy decision that Hugh Wilson will not be slow to exploit to full architectural advantage.

A recent sketch by Lionel Brett for a group of houses at Hatfield indicates a considerable departure from open layout, with a tight, informal pattern of continuous frontages, fundamentally different in character to the timid terraces of six or eight dwellings that have so often repre-

sented maximum concession to urbanity. This particular group, if it can be successfully achieved, may well be a landmark.

Most of the New Town Corporations have been good enough to send me recent progress photographs.

Housing

With housing as a high priority, channelling much architectural talent into the public offices, it is to be expected that considerable experiments should have taken place in this field. The 'lush meadows' of Roehampton (someone recently mistakenly used this phrase; in fact they were mature 'policies', to use the Scottish term), gave the opportunity to put into practice 'mixed development'—high point blocks of flats, frequently on the sites of demolished mansions with complementary groups of houses and maisonettes, shops and other community facilities. This pattern has been both criticised and followed; criticised, mainly on account of the height of the tall blocks, by those who would strive to maintain an illusion of *rus in urbe*; and followed by many who see great flexibility in handling a wide variety of housing types.

In spite of the fact that much housing continues to follow pre-war lines, I get the impression that the deadly influence of the standard road pattern is at last waning, due mainly to the fact that more housing is in expert hands. It is still perhaps insufficiently realised in high places that quality in layout cannot be achieved without considerable designing skill and effort; the desperate monotony so often associated with housing is possibly not unconnected with scales of fees! In addition, there is now in existence a strong tradition in housing layout that housing committees have become accustomed to; departures from the norm must be justified in terms of convenience of living, as well as on aesthetic grounds, and one feels that considerably more study could usefully be given to the details of convenience (means of access; design of a great variety of open spaces; maintenance costs; tolerable levels of privacy, etc.), to give the architect a solid background of practical argument in his effort to create an acceptable environment.

Redevelopment

The more heavily bombed cities have achieved considerably varied degrees of reconstruction. The seaboard towns, Plymouth, Southampton, Hull, Clydebank, have rebuilt on a large scale, without adding greatly to their already considerable personalities. The plans for Bristol, a town of great individuality, give promise of a more vigorous and lively solution to the rebuilding of the central area.

In Sheffield, the University has shown unusual courage in promoting a competition for a large group of buildings. The winning design, by Gollins, Melvin, Ward and Partners, using the steep slopes with great skill, creates a small campus surrounded by buildings of varying height, including the library, and an impressive tower block. The University, being near

the centre of the town, may well, by this development, make a notable contribution to urban character, of great value to the city as a whole.

In relation to the redevelopment of the core of the town, Coventry has taken the limelight. The new centre is well advanced, in spite of varying views on the exclusion of wheeled traffic from the main shopping centre, a question that has only recently been settled. Some changes have been made in the original plan, which did not envisage a new cathedral at right angles to the old, without departing from its basic principles.

It may well be that Coventry first faced, in a comprehensive way, the implications of the question 'What is a City Centre?' Today part of the answer is now in existence. The total effect is cheerful, almost gay. It certainly has human scale, and has successfully avoided pomp and monotony. Even at this stage, with the new Cathedral only recently risen above ground, we can acknowledge a considerable achievement of character.

London

The great bombed areas of London are still largely undeveloped, except where sites have been taken for housing. The plan for the precinct of St. Paul's, probably the most outstanding essay in the deliberate creation of urban character since the days of the Regency, has been recently accepted after prolonged discussion. Many architectural views have been given on the proposals, some of these, to my mind, perversely retrograde; I would only say that any measure of success they may achieve will be a tribute to a quality that Lewis Mumford has referred to as *urban statesmanship*, all too rare, alas! at the present time.

Plans for the Barbican, the former commercial area on the northern fringe of the City, have now, it seems, crystallised. This area, occupied before the war by factories, warehouses and offices, at one time looked like being redeveloped on similar lines, the traditional 'back-yard' to the City. The Kadleigh-Horsburgh plan, however, provocative in its immense scale, focused attention on the possibility that people might return once more to live in the City (in 1851 the resident population of the parish was over 14,000; in 1951 there remained 28).

Chamberlin, Powell and Bon have now prepared a plan for part of the area, a residential zone for 6,700 people, leaving the remainder for offices, for which a plan, by the City and the L.C.C. in collaboration, has been evolved. The models so far published are exhilarating. The commercial area has a series of towers and low groups of office buildings. The residential zone, conceived on an expansive scale, consists of two large quadrangles, each with one side open to a central space, containing, in addition to the parish church of St. Giles, a secondary school, and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Three 31-storey slim towers of flats stand outside the courtyards, in strong contrast to their horizontal lines. Pedestrians move freely

on an upper level of broad promenades and bridges, with a canal and ornamental water used as part of the landscaping. If carried out on the lines suggested, this scheme may well set a new standard in urban design, on a scale we have not seen in this country for a very long time.

Pimlico to Golden Lane

If there is a trend to be observed in housing, it is towards a closer integration of building, especially at ground level, a difference of emphasis that is noticeable, for instance, between the Pimlico layout and the more recent group at Golden Lane. Both schemes are at maximum permitted residential density (200 persons to the acre) and both have high and low buildings. Pimlico, facing the river, is not so tightly grouped, and the general effect is maintained by the long, high blocks. At Golden Lane, a short 17-storey block dominates, but does not overwhelm, the low buildings. The whole is drawn together by strong lines of terracing at varying levels with ramps and steps; to my mind, one of the most successful recent essays in townscape. A variety of hard surfaces and strong colours (Rasmussen's 'crisp tones?') are used with great skill.

Stepney-Poplar

A degree of close planning was aimed at in the first section of the Lansbury neighbourhood, built before 1951. There are no tall buildings, unlike subsequent development in the Stepney-Poplar area. The market square, replacing an existing congested street market, designed by Frederick Gibberd, has developed considerable character, built up from a number of interesting elements—the open and covered markets, a short length of traffic free shops (achieved against prophecies of failure by the estate experts), a public-house, and, inevitably, the tower.

The two-storey closes, facing paved forecourts separated from the flanking roadway, designed by Peter Shepherd, seem exactly in tune with the traditional atmosphere of the East End of London. To the Scottish mind, steeped in the tenemental gloom of the typical industrial 'East-End' of the Northern cities, Stepney-Poplar, on a first visit, gives an almost small-town impression—open skies, and sunlight penetrating into the smallest backyard—such is the subjectivity of judgement of character!

More recent redevelopment work in this part of London by the L.C.C. (e.g. the Tidey Street scheme), which I propose to illustrate, does indicate, to me, a considerable advance in the achievement of positive architectural character; it is not irrelevant to notice that this has essentially arisen from a serious attempt to understand modes and habits of living.

Estate Development

New housing by private enterprise has played a relatively small part in the urban landscape since the war. The estate developer has forgotten little in the last 20 years. He has certainly learned little from the development of public housing,

and clearly wishes to maintain the greatest possible contrast. Here, surely, is a field wide open for study and experiment; the present level in production would seem to provide the opportunity.

It is difficult to get material for illustration under this heading, with the exception of Eric Lyons's notable developments at Ham and Blackheath. These are so exceptional in character, and so obviously congenial to those now living there, that it becomes the more difficult to understand why the techniques used by the private developer have, for so long, remained static. The publication of a sketch recently for a large development near Birmingham in the form of 'mixed development'—towers included—suggests that, even in this direction, a new wind may possibly be blowing!

The Technological Landscape

Holford has underlined the necessity to get to grips once more with scale. Looking at the great columns at Baalbec a few weeks ago, it was not difficult to visualise a severe dichotomy, no doubt deliberate, between the temples and the (presumably) subdued human scale of the surrounding town. Today, we have an even more striking dichotomy, but it is not planned, nor indeed, desired. Power station capacity has grown steadily: with nuclear power there is a significant increase in mass. My own experience recently with a pre-nuclear 1,000 MW station located on the fringe of a small town (average height, two storeys), does not suggest that the problems of integrating the new technological scale with older development have been sufficiently studied. Tree-planting seemed, in the case mentioned, the only answer; more often, a space for mass-foliage is not available, and in any case a 'blanket' solution of this kind may do little more than mask the real problem.

So, too, with road works. It is only recently that the true measure of the automobile, in terms of landscaping, has been seen in this country; hitherto detached interest in its effect on American towns has changed to alarm as new projects appear. The new highway out of London to the north-west, will, apparently, rise to 60 ft. to clear existing buildings; the piers and anchorage cables of the road bridge over the River Forth will bestride the town of South Queensferry. These are preliminary shots only. The tragedy is that these essentials to our new technological civilisation are, too often, promoted in an atmosphere of hostility and frustration. We need power: we must have freedom to move about; but we need, above all, an effort to understand the situation and come to terms with it. These great artifacts can be humanised (the railways do not always massacre the townscape) and with sufficient imagination, may be transformed into valuable elements in urban environment.

The conditions, however, under which this may be brought about still have to be assessed. We, as architects, could play a considerable part in this assessment.

Conference on Architectural Education

held at Magdalen College, Oxford, 11, 12 and 13 April

Report by Professor Sir Leslie Martin, M.A., Ph.D. [F]

THE PROPOSAL to hold a Conference on Architectural Education had its origin in the Council of the R.I.B.A. During discussions of particular reports from the Board of Architectural Education it became clear that there existed a general feeling that all the related aspects of the subject should be fully explored. This, it was suggested, might be done at a conference and it was considered that it would be an advantage to the Council to have any views or ideas which such a conference might produce. Consequently, a recommendation was made in 1956 that a Conference on Architectural Education should be held not later than the spring of 1957. To allow time for adequate preparation, April 1958 was finally agreed.

A Conference Organising Committee was set up by the Board of Architectural Education. This committee had several objectives. First, it was considered that any conference should draw together as much relevant factual information as possible. Second, that the discussion should bring out as much informed opinion as possible from people interested in widely different aspects of architectural education. Third, that the discussion should be frank, and, finally, that if possible some line of action should emerge.

In order to achieve these objectives the committee decided to circulate preparatory papers giving a general background both of fact and opinion. In order to concentrate the discussion which was bound to be extensive it was felt that invitations to the Conference would have to be limited. Invitations were therefore sent to people inside and outside the profession who were known to have views to express. The Conference Committee was aware that in taking this selective action valuable contributions might be excluded. It hoped, however, that it had achieved in its selection an effective cross-section of opinion and interest. The range of subjects to be discussed formed another difficulty. These could certainly not be covered in any single session. But a limited number of people could perhaps spend longer periods together. It was therefore decided to hold a week-end conference at Magdalen College, Oxford, on 11, 12 and 13 April.

An outline programme was drawn up in order to give some form to the debate. After an introductory session to discuss the programme, the Conference was divided into three main sessions. These covered broadly:

- (1) the needs of the profession and the community and the desirable standards;
- (2) the means of education, the routes of entry into the profession and the standards that are being and could be achieved;

(3) developments of advanced training and research.

The Conference was attended by 50 members. They made their contributions as members of the profession with interests in public or private offices of various kinds. They represented industry and local authorities, the teaching institutions, building and the associated professions. Several visitors from abroad and from the Commonwealth also attended. Their discussion forms the basis of the following notes.

The last Congress on Architectural Education was held in 1924. At that Congress, Professor Budden gave an outline of the system and policy of architectural education in this country.¹ 'The real qualifying work', he said, 'is to be done by the schools which can offer a full-time course extending over a period of five years. Into this category come the principal university schools, one independent school and a school of art. Though the pupilage system has practically passed in most of the larger centres of population it still lingers in certain localities. To meet the needs of these districts complementary courses are available.' These courses are given in schools of art and technical colleges and consist of part-time and evening training. Students taking these courses qualify by external examination.

The 1924 Congress clearly places the emphasis on full-time training in 'recognised schools'. Training elsewhere exists to meet the needs of a dwindling minority. It can be carried out as and when the need arises in institutions which differ from each other in origin and intention.

This general conception was reiterated in 1943, when the Special Committee on Architectural Education, in referring to the decline of pupilage and apprenticeship, said: 'In the meantime the R.I.B.A. must maintain its own system of qualifying examinations for the benefit of those who, for one reason or another, have not passed through a "recognised school".'²

What these statements recognise is that two main types of training have been set up—one inside a full-time school leading to exemption, the other outside these schools and designed to assist students to take the R.I.B.A. examinations externally. But what these statements fail to recognise is that although pupilage may decline, the numbers of students taking the external examinations may, for various reasons, continue to increase.

In fact, in 1957, 486 students qualified at recognised schools and as many as

417 took the R.I.B.A. External Examination. In the same year 3,764 students were attending final and intermediate schools and 3,342 were taking courses in listed and facility schools. This latter figure does not include those who prepared themselves for examination independently (for example, by correspondence courses).

Students of architecture can, in fact, prepare for qualification in a number of different ways and in increasing numbers of institutions. There are now in the United Kingdom 21 recognised schools, 5 intermediate schools, 9 listed schools, 32 facility schools and a considerable number of institutions offering courses in architecture. Numbers of students range from 500 in the larger schools to 7 at the other end of the scale. The aims of training and the standards reached in these schools differ widely. So do the standards of entry and the quality of instruction.

But all students taking these widely different courses have one object—to qualify and to become Registered Architects. Numbers have risen sharply since the war. Corporate membership of the R.I.B.A. stood at 8,218 in 1938. It had risen to 10,706 in 1948, and it now stands at 18,175. Over half the profession has probably qualified since the war. This increase may continue irregularly but on average at a rate of about 500 a year, which might lead to an ultimate total of something approaching 30,000 architects.

Factual evidence of this kind,³ supported by a considerable amount of information on the structure of the profession, formed the background to discussion. This dealt with the development of architecture as a public service and what the public expects of the architect. It touched the changing nature of architectural practice and the technical standards that are now required. These demands and standards were in turn related to the standards of entry and training and to the ultimate and desirable level of performance in the profession.

The ultimate purpose was repeatedly stressed. It was that the profession should attempt to improve its standards of competence at all levels. Any move in this direction must start with the standard of entry. Although the level of entry to a course in a university school can be high, the normal minimum standard elsewhere (five passes at 'O' level) is far too low. Plenty of evidence to illustrate the depressing effect of this low standard was forthcoming. In one county, for example, 'a student at a grammar school who wishes to become an architect is advised to leave as soon as the five basic subjects at "O" level have been obtained'. The reason given for this is that he would be wasting his time and public money to stay on in the sixth form. Representatives of secon-

¹ Book of Proceedings of the International Congress on Architectural Education, 1924.

² Report of the Special Committee on Architectural Education, 1943.

³ The Conference emphasised the importance of the statistical information which is now being gathered by the R.I.B.A.

dary and higher education pointed out that there are now plenty of competitors for the best boys from grammar and public schools. At present the entry standard for architects is well below that required by other professions; for example, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons metallurgists, not to mention undergraduate entry to a university and the entry standard for the Higher National Diploma in Building.

As one speaker quoted, 'The question that arises is how far can a great profession, statutorily responsible for its own education, afford to have an entry standard below that which a good mind may nowadays be expected to attain. It is an issue which the profession may prefer to face sooner than later, for in the next few years (with an increase in the number of 18-year-olds available) it could seize the opportunity to select candidates rather than to accept what material presents itself.' The architectural profession will need every artifice to catch anything like a fair share of this increase.

A sharp improvement in the standard of entry is urgent. This, in turn, would rapidly have repercussions throughout training and ultimately throughout the profession. The difference between an 'O' level pass at 16 and an 'A' level at 18 is not just a difference of educational standard. In the second case, as one speaker said, 'the mind is two years older and more developed'. 'I cannot believe', he said, 'that in one case a course of five years is long enough or in the other that five years is required.'

Among the conditions that flow from a uniform and higher standard of entry are the following:

First, it makes possible at once a much higher standard of training in all practical and theoretical subjects.

Second, the higher standard and range of study replaces training for a common level by the possibility of developing diversified interests as the student moves through his course. If architects are to hold their own in a developing field of technology this is, in itself, highly important.

Third, the development of a higher standard in undergraduate study leads naturally to the important field of post-graduate study.

Fourth, experience confirms that a good mind absorbs knowledge extremely rapidly. This fact would have repercussions on the length of theoretical training that is necessary and might open the way to new developments in training.

One issue, however, cannot be avoided. The raising of the standard of entry for all students who intend to qualify as architects is likely to lead to a consideration of the desirability of other and complementary forms of training—not leading to Registration—but equipping the student to take his place as a valuable member of the building team.

In the discussion on this matter the following points emerged. The fact is that there exists in the profession a demand for

highly competent technical assistants. If we are to reach a higher standard of training for the architect and, at the same time, provide competent technicians, then we should recognise this distinction in our training. If the entry level for the architect is to be an 'A' level at the age of 18, there is a case for an entry level at 16 for those who will train as supporting technicians.

The precise form of this training of the technicians will need careful study. The possibility of basic courses and combined forms of training with other building technicians may be considered. There is, in fact, interesting precedent: speakers from Denmark and Sweden gave comparisons, and reference was made to similar developments in other professions (engineering, for example). Although the 'A' level standard of entry for all intending architects was insistently pressed, several speakers mentioned the desirability of providing the opportunity for outstanding students who have started their training as technicians to move into an architect's course providing always that the required standard has been reached.

The Conference followed this discussion by a consideration of the means of education. This consideration centred on the types of school and the main objectives of training. Although the content and the curriculum was discussed it was obvious that the Conference could not give this detailed consideration.

Three types of school were discussed: the independent school, the university school and the local authority school of various kinds. These were considered from a number of points of view including standards of entry, facilities for training, opportunities for the development of training and post-graduate work, staffing and the development of links with actual practice.

For the large independent and university schools it was stated that the qualification requirement at entry (judged either by examination standard or combined examination and probationary period) was high. A student taking a degree course, for instance, must reach 'A' level in two or more subjects. A student who fails to show promise in the early stages of his course can be excluded. (The probationary period should mean what it says. Consideration of exclusion from a course at Intermediate level is far too late.) Schools of this type are free to develop their courses well beyond the range of the R.I.B.A. syllabus, and within the universities the opportunities for collaboration with other faculties can lift the content of the course to a very high level. This opportunity for the interchange of ideas between men of different interests and experience is of the greatest importance to both students and staff. This interchange can occur at undergraduate and post-graduate level. The background of the university influences the school: the school of architecture, in turn, can influence the understanding of architecture in the university itself and in the

minds of undergraduates who may well be its future patrons.

A strong case can be made for the development of schools of architecture in universities and for the transfer to universities of schools in other institutions. The characteristic feature of architectural education is that it involves widely different types of knowledge. From the point of view of the university this raises two considerations. If architecture is to take its proper place in the university and if the knowledge which it entails is to be taught at the highest standard, it will be necessary to establish a bridge between faculties: between the arts and the sciences, the engineering science, sociology and economics. Furthermore, the universities will require something more than a study of techniques and parcels of this or that form of knowledge. They will expect and have a right to expect that knowledge will be guided and developed by principles: that is, by theory. 'Theory', as one speaker said, 'is the body of principles that explains and interrelates all the facts of a subject.' Research is the tool by which theory is advanced. Without it, teaching can have no direction and thought no cutting edge.

In spite of the strong arguments for university schools it was clearly recognised that several institutions outside the universities were capable of developing their training to a university level. Experimental developments in schools of advanced technology would give these institutions the opportunity of advancing those aspects of architectural education which are proper to their framework and of adding to the variety of skills that are required of the architect.

In contrast with the standard that such courses can achieve there is the picture of training in a great many institutions offering tuition in architecture. There are, of course, good 'recognised schools' and bad 'recognised schools'. There are equally good 'unrecognised' schools and bad ones. The difference between the good schools in each category is, however, all a difference of opportunity. One is free to develop its courses, the other is restricted by the requirements of training for an external examination, and the whole concept of part-time and evening training.

The difficulty in the 'unrecognised' facility schools starts at the outset. The facility school can develop in any institution at which a reasonable number of candidates present themselves for part-time and evening training. This number is generally recognised as ten but can be lower. There is an initial difficulty where students already engaged in offices arrive for training without even the necessary 'O' level standard. Training takes the form of preparation of testimonies of study: 32 drawings have to be approved by R.I.B.A. examiners. If they are not approved the reason is not clear to the student. There is no time to develop courses beyond the level of the R.I.B.A. External Examination requirements. Immediately before the examination the students concentrate exclusively on revision.

Although only 40 per cent may pass, eventually after repeated attempts 90 per cent may finally succeed. This, said one speaker, 'is not education it is cramming'.

The very multiplicity of 'unrecognised' schools with different standards militates against the raising of the level of architectural education in these institutions. To this is added the confusion that comes from a lack of any clear indication of what is required by the profession. The raising of the standard of entry to a high level would be a welcome indication that the profession wishes to raise its standards of training for architects. The profession must decide whether anything approaching the desirable standard of architectural education can be achieved by part-time and evening tuition. [The 'sandwich' course which is developing in some schools is deliberately excluded and is discussed below.] If not, then the profession should say so.

The freedom from the restrictions of training by testimonies would allow some schools to advance their training to the level required for architects. Where this is impossible or inappropriate a parallel policy of training in building technology would give some institutions the possibility of building up new and useful courses for this purpose. The ultimate object should be that all schools worthy of providing the improved standard of training required by the architect should be recognised schools. The unrecognised school is an anachronism.

A clear lead must come from the profession. It must not only give a lead. It must play its part in architectural education. It can do this in several ways:

First, staffing. The difficulties of staffing schools are of two kinds. On the one hand there is the danger that the promising student may find himself promoted to teacher without any really adequate period of practical or research experience or even any understanding of teaching. On the other hand schools have also relied on young people who are starting practice and who may use a teaching salary as a basic income. These people may bring enthusiasm; but when their practice is established they go. What is necessary is an arrangement which brings into teaching architects with creative ability and extensive practical or research experience so that they may add to the fund of knowledge that is available in a school. This can be assisted by the link with post-graduate research. But it also requires a readiness on the part of able practitioners and specialists to take their place from time to time as teachers. It is simply no good for the profession to complain about the standard of education when those who have become skilled practitioners feel unable to collaborate.

Second. If the student's complete course of training is to have any realism this means that at some stage he must be brought into the closest possible touch with all the requirements of practical building. The best way to achieve this is for him to be associated with a building project and the profession must recognise

this as a necessary step in architectural education.

This can be done in two ways. It can be achieved by the development of the 'live project' as a school subject. This has already been pioneered in one school and is in operation in others.⁴

The other possible arrangement is through the operation of combined or 'sandwich' courses. These are being developed in several schools and are proposed in others. The sandwich course is *not* part-time training. (One conclusion on which the Conference was emphatic was that the part-time course must go.) The sandwich course which is proposed in schools which carry out full-time training is a means of breaking down the barrier between training and practice. This is done by alternating periods of training in a school with periods of training in an office. The collaboration in training by the office itself is essential to the success of any scheme of this kind.

In its consideration of the question of advanced training the Conference had before it a paper⁵ which stated in its preface 'Knowledge is the raw material for design'. 'It is not a substitute for architectural imagination: but it is necessary for the effective exercise of imagination and skill in design. Inadequate knowledge handicaps and trammels the architect, limits the achievements of even the most creative and depresses the general level of design.'

The advancement of knowledge is not merely an ornament to a profession—it is its duty. This is the means by which the competence of the profession as a whole can be advanced. It is essential to improvement in both teaching and practice that a limited number of people should at some time devote themselves to advanced post-graduate study and research.

Work of this kind is steadily increasing in volume. In addition to the main centres where it has developed, the B.R.S., the Ministry of Education and the Nuffield Foundation, important developments are now taking place in universities in which this type of work may become progressively more established. The pioneering work of these centres of research has indicated the range of study that is required. In addition to the study of the space and functional requirements of building types, studies of building design in relation to daylighting and town planning, the prefabrication and industrialisation of building and the special problems of tropical building are now being followed up.⁶

Work of this kind can be conducted as pure research but is more likely to take the form of investigations which involve interrelated studies: for example, the interrelation between architecture and social needs, the physics of environment, etc. Studies at present being conducted in this country already involve extensive contact

⁴ Birmingham School of Architecture; R.W.A. School of Architecture, Bristol; University of Cambridge School of Architecture.

⁵ 'Deeper Knowledge: Better Design', by R. Llewelyn Davies [P].

⁶ The whole question of the architect's contribution to town planning needs special consideration.

with other disciplines: on the side of the means of production architects are at work with structural engineers, mechanical engineers, production engineers, management and time study experts: on the side of the needs of buildings they co-operate with clients, sociologists, psychologists, physicists, physiologists.

The very nature of this pattern of co-operation makes post-graduate work in architecture a suitable subject for development in the universities where, so far, the main developments of post-graduate study have largely concentrated on historical research which, indeed, they have carried out with distinction.

The evolution of post-graduate studies of this kind is a natural extension of higher standards of training within the schools. These studies are the means by which students of diversified interests extend their own minds and the boundaries of knowledge. They also build up the specialised knowledge which is always replacing and reinforcing the generalised knowledge of practice.

By the development of post-graduate study, the profession can provide itself with the higher technical ability and knowledge that it requires. Above all, it can advance and reinvigorate its teaching.

Conclusions

These discussions clearly led to a series of important considerations. Many of the matters discussed are issues which can only be effectively studied over a period of time, but there were certain issues which the Conference considered to be urgent, critical and essential safeguards to the future of architectural education. These matters arose from many aspects of the discussion and eventually crystallized into the following recommendations for action:

1. The Conference unanimously agreed that the present minimum standard of entry into training (five passes at 'O' level) is far too low and urged that this level should be raised to a minimum of two passes at 'A' level.
2. The Conference agreed that courses based on Testimonies of Study and the R.I.B.A. External Examinations are restricting to the development of a full training for the architect and that these courses should be progressively abolished.
3. Ultimately, all schools capable of providing the high standard of training envisaged for the architect should be 'recognised' and situated in universities or institutions where courses of comparable standard can be conducted.
4. Courses followed by students intending to qualify as architects should be either full-time or, on an experimental basis, combined or sandwich courses in which periods of training in a school alternate with periods of training in an office.
5. It may be that these raised standards of education for the architect will make desirable other forms of training not leading to an architectural qualification,

but which will provide an opportunity for transfer if the necessary educational standard is obtained.

6. The Conference regards post-graduate work as an essential part of architectural education. It endorses the policy of developing post-graduate courses which will enlarge the range of specialised knowledge, and will advance the standards of teaching and practice.

The following attended the Conference:

Professor Sir LESLIE MARTIN, Ph.D. [F], Chairman. Professor NILS ÅHRBOM, Professor of Architecture, The Royal Technical High School, Stockholm. Mr. R. A. DINGWALL SMITH, Scottish Education Department. Mr. HARVEY G. FROST, O.B.E., Vice-President, Institute of Builders. Professor MARIE JAHODA, Professor of Psychology, New York University. Mr. W. JAMES, F.R.I.C.S. (Quantity Surveying Division). Professor PREBEN HANSEN, Association of Danish Architects. Dr. B. L. HALLWARD, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nottingham. Dr. F. M. LEA, C.B.E. [Hon. A], Director of Building Research, D.S.I.R. Mr. E. W. MAYNARD POTTS, Headmaster, Hendon County School. Mr. A. A. PART, M.B.E., Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education. Mr. R. F. SAUNDERS, Deputy Education Officer for Worcestershire. Sir WALTER WORBOYS, Director, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. Mr. WILLIAM ALLEN [A]. Mr. G. GRENFELL BAINES [A]. Mr. D. H. BEATY-POWNALL [F], Vice-Chairman, Board of Architectural Education. Mr. HUBERT BENNETT [F]. The Hon. LIONEL BRETT [F]. Sir HUGH CASSON [F]. Mr. ANTHONY COX [F]. Mr. R. E. ENTHOVEN [F], Chairman, Board of Architectural Education. Mr. RAYMOND ERITH [F]. Mr. T. B. F. GARGETT [F], Hon. Secretary, Royal Australian Institute of Architects. Mr. C. C. HANDISYDE [A]. Mr. P. E. A. JOHNSON-MARSHALL [A]. Mr. R. LLEWELYN DAVIES [F]. Mr. D. H. MCMORRAN A.R.A. [F]. Mr. E. D. MILLS [F], Hon. Secretary, Board of Architectural Education. Mr. ANTHONY POTT [A]. Mr. ROBERT J. POTTER [F]. Mr. RICHARD SHEPPARD [F]. Mr. T. H. THOMS [F], P.R.I.A.S. Mr. J. H. W. VOELCKER [A]. Mr. C. S. WHITE [F]. Mr. F. CHIPPINDALE [F], Head of the Leeds School of Architecture and Town Planning. Professor R. GARDNER-MEDWIN [F], Liverpool University School of Architecture. Mr. T. E. HALL [A], Principal, City of Liverpool College of Building. Professor DENIS R. HARPER, Ph.D. [F], Professor of Building, College of Science and Technology, University of Manchester. Mr. D. J. HINTON [A], Birmingham College of Art and Crafts, School of Architecture. Dr. THOMAS HOWARTH [F], Toronto University School of Architecture. Mr. BRUCE LUCAS, Chief Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, University of Queensland. Professor R. H. MATTHEW, C.B.E. [F], University of Edinburgh, Department of Architecture. Professor John Needham [F], University of Sheffield, Department of Architecture.

Mr. D. W. NOTLEY [A], Vice-Chairman, Board of Architectural Education, Head of the Nottingham College of Art School of Architecture. Mr. MICHAEL PATTRICK [F], Vice-Chairman, Board of Architectural Education, Principal of the A.A. School of Architecture, London. Mr. E. M. RICE [F], Principal, Hammersmith College of Art and Building. Mr. T. E. SCOTT, C.B.E. [F], Head of the Northern Polytechnic, Department of Architecture, London. Professor L. W. THORNTON WHITE [F], University of Cape Town School of Architecture. Mr. J. S. WALKDEN [F], Head of the Polytechnic School of Architecture, Regent Street, London. Mr. COLIN A. ST. J. WILSON [A], University of Cambridge School of Architecture. Mr. EVERARD HAYNES, Secretary, Board of Architectural Education. Mr. GORDON R. RICKETTS, Secretary for Professional Relations.

Practice Notes

Edited by Charles Woodward [A]

IN PARLIAMENT. Building. In reply to a question the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works replied: The Building Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has, over the past years, been assisting builders to make more use of mechanical plant. Examples are the tower crane and mechanical barrows. The Research Station has also developed a simple method of programming building operations to enable building to proceed more smoothly, quickly and efficiently. Builders have co-operated and by using some of the devices to which I have referred there may be a saving of anything from 20 per cent to 30 per cent in time, which can be reflected to a considerable extent in prices. (22 April 1958.)

Flats (Single Stack Drainage). In reply to a question the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works replied: The Building Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has recently published, through Her Majesty's Stationery Office, a book, *Drainage Pipework in Dwellings*. This gives full design rules and details of single-stack drainage, that is the system using only one downpipe, which is suitable for flats up to five storeys high. By using these methods the saving is from £10 to £16 per flat, which is between one-third and one-half of the cost of the old installation. I said that the system had been applied to flats up to five storeys because flats up to five storeys were included in the book. Actually, it can be applied to buildings of eleven storeys. (22 April 1958.)

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. New Generating Stations and Overhead Lines. Circular 28/58 dated 14 April addressed to local planning

authorities refers to changes in the procedure for obtaining consent to the construction of new generating stations and overhead lines. Where the local planning authority object to an application and the Minister of Power is so notified, he must cause a public inquiry to be held unless he proposes to impose conditions which will give effect to the authority's objection.

Regulations have been made by the Minister of Power providing that the Electricity Board shall publish in two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers notice of an application to the Minister for consent to the construction or extension of a generating station and to the erection of an overhead high-voltage electric line. The notice must name a place within the locality where a map showing the situation of the land affected may be inspected. Objections to the proposal may be made by persons affected. The Circular is obtainable at H.M.S.O. price 3d. net and the Regulations (1957 No. 2227.S.I. Electricity) price 3d. net.

Bulletin of Selected Appeal Decisions. The Ministry have now published Bulletin No. XIII dated April 1958 being the Minister's decisions in respect of Appeals under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. It contains an Index of Bulletins Nos. I to XIII giving the subjects dealt with in alphabetical order. The Bulletin is obtainable at H.M.S.O. price 1s. 6d. net and includes appeals in respect of advertisements, caravans, change of use, service roads, Green Belt development, design and appearance, petrol stations and conditions relating to connecting house drainage to the public sewer.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL. Firm Price Tendering. On the recommendation of its General Purposes Committee the London County Council decided at its meeting on 22 April that, as an experiment, firm price tenders be sought for contracts of between six months' and two years' duration in selected cases; that firm prices be obtained for all contracts up to six months in duration (save in exceptional circumstances); and that all other contracts continue to contain a fluctuations clause pending the results of the experiments in firm price tendering.

The L.C.C. Education Committee have also agreed to carry out an experiment on lines suggested by the Ministry of Education to the effect that firm price tenders for educational projects should be sought in selected cases under arrangements which would enable the Ministry to consider the margin provided for fluctuations where a tender exceeds the appropriate cost limits.

In connection with these decisions the General Purposes Committee reported to the L.C.C. as follows:—

It has always been the Committee's view that the Council should revert to firm price tendering as soon as conditions made such a course practicable and in 1954, as a step in this direction, they authorised the invitation, in suitable instances, of tenders on alternative bases, (a) with the standard

fluctuation clause applying to wages and materials, or (b) with a fluctuations clause applying to wages only, the prices for materials being firm. The Government recently decided to revert to its pre-war practice of requiring firm tenders for contracts of all building and civil engineering works, irrespective of size, which are estimated to last not more than two years. The Government departments concerned regard it as essential to the obtaining of competitive prices for firm price tenders that the work to be executed should be completely pre-planned, and that the contractor should be given a clear indication of the work required and the time in which it must be done, that variations of the contract should be kept to a minimum and that tenders should be accepted quickly.

LAW CASES

Blundell and Others v. Obsdale, Ltd. Repairing Covenants—Structural Repairs. In this case tried in the Chancery Division on 11 March, his Lordship dealt with structural repairs under a covenant to 'well and substantially repair uphold support maintain and reinstate where necessary the foundations and party walls of the said message but the lessee shall not be responsible for structural repairs to the foundations roof main walls and drains'.

Two breaches of covenant were relied on by the plaintiffs, one being a failure to repair a balustrade forming the boundary of a balcony to the first floor front room, and the other a failure to 'solder and repair' a lead roof on the fourth floor at the back.

As to the balustrade his Lordship held it was not a wall at all; still less was it a main wall. It was an ornamental feature over the front door, and the repairs were not structural, for this piece of decoration was not part of the structure of the house and was a liability of the lessee.

As to the lead roof which was laid on boards, his Lordship held that lead was part of the structure of the house, and that if it were necessary to strip off the lead and still more so to repair the boards below, that would be a structural repair to the roof within the exception to the lessee's repairing covenant. To re-dress the lead and solder the cracks as required by the lessors was not a structural repair and was therefore the lessee's liability. (THE ESTATES GAZETTE, 12 April 1958.)

What is a window under Bye-laws? In the JOURNAL for October last at page 504 the decision of the Dorking Magistrates to the effect that a glazed casement door (or 'french window') was a window within the meaning of the Council's building by-laws was noted. The Council lodged an appeal against this decision but the respondents then submitted an amended plan, which complied with the Council's interpretation of the by-law, and withdrew the plan which had been rejected by the Council and had formed the subject-matter of the proceedings before the Magistrates. In these circumstances, it was unnecessary for the Council to proceed further with

their appeal, and accordingly they did not do so. The Magistrates allowed the costs awarded against the Council to be remitted. (THE ESTATES GAZETTE, 26 April 1958.)

Correspondence

ARCHITECTURE AND THE OTHER ARTS

The Editor, R.I.B.A. Journal

Sir,—Mr. Norbert Lynton's letter¹ obfuscates the issue. His first answer to my question—why ought there to be collaboration?—is no answer at all. He writes: '... any division between the arts is essentially artificial'. Why? And again, why not? Is he, with Sedlmayr of Munich, unable to appreciate that all art is artificial anyway?

His second answer: that the architect must also consider the spiritual dimension of man's environment, directly implies that architectural solutions not based on collaboration show a disregard for the spiritual dimension. What arrogant nonsense! Would he really claim that a dining table 'enriched' with sculptural ornamentation on its legs was necessarily of greater spiritual dimension than one with plain legs?

I say the problem of using or not using the allied arts is one which should rest squarely on the architect's shoulders; I say this because I regard architects as artists and an artist has the need to decide *himself* what his art should embody. So Mr. Lynton accuses me of saying, in effect, 'count me out'.

Now as an architect and a sculptor, I have spent more time working on this problem than most people; and I derive the greatest satisfaction from those instances where architecture and sculpture achieve integration. But I will not, as a sculptor, attempt to cajole or browbeat the architect into using sculpture for my own spiritual or financial satisfaction by telling him that he *ought* to collaborate, and that if he doesn't he neglects the spiritual side of man's environment!

Finally, if Mr. Lynton is still confused, I suggest he reads your admirably factual report at least once more, and this time pays particular attention to Mr. Basil Taylor's summing up.

Yours faithfully,

REG BUTLER [4]

SUB-CONTRACTORS' PAYMENTS

Sir,—I think that Mr. R. H. Gallanagh's letter in the May issue of the JOURNAL should not be allowed to pass without comment lest architects find yet another inroad into their pockets foisted upon them.

The architect is not charged with the duty of advising sub-contractors of the amounts included in his certificates in their favour. It would be most improper for the quantity surveyor to do so. The sub-contractor's receipts should be sent to the main contractor. The responsibility for the

production of sub-contractors' receipts rests upon the main contractor, and the main contractor can quite easily put an R on his cheques.

Unquestionably the idea of this notification to the sub-contractors is an attractive one. I too had a special form prepared. Then on one occasion I suddenly realised that I had been two hours filling in the brief particulars and that postage alone, even at printed paper rate, was far from being a bagatelle by the time a contract was concluded. I reflected that, quite gratuitously, this was solely for the benefit of the sub-contractor and entirely out of my own pocket. Altruism has its limits; I ceased the practice.

There is an increasing clamour that this service should become yet another of the impositions placed upon architects. I am growing a little tired of the growing attitude that if a person thinks he would like something, a benevolent nurse should provide it free of charge. If sub-contractors wish for this service they could, for a start, supply the architect with a number of suitably worded business reply cards. I should be most happy to return them at the appropriate intervals.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. J. TROLLOPE [L]

AESTHETIC CONTROL

Sir,—In your May issue Mr. E. W. Berridge very concisely sets out the objects of aesthetic control. The point which he does not sufficiently recognise is that these objects are not in practice being achieved. Not many houses or other small buildings are designed by architects; I cannot see, as I go about the country, that control has raised the general level of external appearance over the past ten years. Nor, with a very few notable exceptions, is there evidence that buildings are being related to each other to produce coherent street design.

It is time the issue was faced squarely; there are only two ways out of the present ludicrous situation. The first is that planning authorities should appoint properly qualified officers to deal with aesthetic control (which means architects and not engineers or surveyors), accept their advice and stop lay members dabbling in design. The second is to abandon control altogether. The results could not be much worse than they now are; the atrocities of siting and design which are given an implied blessing bring planning as a whole into disrepute.

The example of redesign which Mr. Berridge appends to his letter is impressive. Few authorities are willing to undertake this kind of service, however; even fewer have the right staff to carry it out, and those who do are apt to find themselves providing a free architectural service for all the 'wide boys' in their area and open to criticism in this respect from private practitioners. I speak from experience as a former planning officer!

Yours faithfully,

J. D. TETLOW [F]

¹ Correspondence, JOURNAL, April 1958, p. 203.

Notes and Notices

NOTICES

Ninth General Meeting, Tuesday 17 June 1958 at 6 p.m. The Ninth General Meeting of the Session 1957-58 will be held on Tuesday 17 June 1958 at 6 p.m. for the following purposes:

To read the Minutes of the Eighth General Meeting held on 20 May 1958; formally to admit new members attending for the first time since their election.

To read the report of the Scrutineers appointed to examine the voting papers for the election of the Council for the Session 1958-59.

Mr. Eric L. Bird, M.B.E., M.C. [A], to read a paper on 'The Problem of Technical Information'. (Light refreshments will be provided before the meeting.)

Session 1957-1958. Minutes VII. At the One Hundred and Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Session 1957-1958 held on Tuesday 6 May 1958 at 6 p.m., Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, M.A., President, in the Chair.

The meeting was attended by about 650 members and guests.

The Minutes of the Sixth General Meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 1958 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as correct.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the President: *As Fellows*: D. A. Birchett, J. B. Guise, F. W. Beresford Smith. *As Associates*: W. G. Cowburn, J. H. Dabrowski, J. D. T. Davis, A. R. Deaves, S. L. Edwards, G. J. Fisher, J. M. Graham, Norman Green, K. C. Griffiths, Messoud Hussein, M. B. Keep, R. W. Kenzie, R. N. Master, R. A. Michelmores, B. F. Moss, N. D. A. Murkin, John Mutter, Patrick O'Keeffe, R. A. W. Orrin, H. F. Rivers, A. L. Roe, R. J. Worboys, J. K. Young.

The President formally presented the Report of the Council and Committees for the official year 1957-1958 and moved that the Report be received. The Hon. Secretary seconded the motion and a discussion ensued.

The following motion was moved by Mr. A. W. Cleeve Barr [A] and seconded by Mr. Anthony Cox [F]:

'That the Annual Report be adopted subject to the following considerations:

'This Annual General Meeting expresses its grave concern at the state of the Institute's affairs, as revealed by the Report, and considers this to reflect not only business inefficiency, but also a failure to appreciate the needs of the profession. It believes it necessary in order to remedy this state of affairs both to revise the financial policy and to reform the Council to make it more representative of the general body of members, and for these purposes requests the Council

1. To carry out a comprehensive review of the Institute's office organisation and business affairs, and also to reconsider its financial policy so that its professional and public activities may be effectively developed.

2. To initiate and prosecute such action as is necessary to ensure that

(a) honorary officers (other than the President and Past Presidents who are directly elected) shall be appointed only from elected members of Council;

(b) all members of Council who shall be entitled to vote, shall be elected by postal ballot—this being organised in the case of regional representatives locally by the Allied Societies.

3. To call a Special General Meeting to report progress on the foregoing items by December 1958.'

The motion was put to the meeting and was declared carried by a large majority.

The proceedings closed at 8.40 p.m.

Election Void. Under the provisions of Bye-law 17 the election as Associate of the following has been declared void: Mr. Brian Keenan Forbes.

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

R.I.B.A. Examination for the Office of Building Surveyor under Local Authorities. At the R.I.B.A. Examination for the Office of Building Surveyor under Local Authorities held on 23, 24 and 25 April 1958, eleven candidates presented themselves, and the following were successful: Edward L. Dines, William A. Jones, John G. Statham, George H. Matzen.

R.I.B.A. Prizes and Studentships, 1958-1959. Copies of the R.I.B.A. Prizes and Studentships Pamphlet for 1958-1959 are now available. The pamphlet contains full information about the various Prizes and Studentships, together with, where applicable, the detailed programmes for the competitions. Copies are obtainable from the Secretary, R.I.B.A., price 3s. 6d., inclusive of postage.

COMPETITIONS

Civic Centre, Ipswich. Last date for submitting designs in the preliminary stage: 25 August 1958.

Full particulars were published in the JOURNAL for March, page 173.

Design of Wooden Office Furniture. Last date for submitting designs in the first stage: 29 August 1958.

Full particulars were published in the JOURNAL for March, page 173.

International Competition

Toronto City Hall. Notification has been received from the Professional Adviser, Professor Eric Arthur, that the following eight competitors have been selected to take part in the final stage of the competition: I. M. Pei and Associates, New York, N.Y.; Frank Mikutowski, South St. Paul, Minnesota; William B. Hayward, Ann Arbor, Michigan; David E. Horne, Toronto; John H. Andrews, Harvard University, Massachusetts (Australian); Perkins and Will (A. A. Hoover and J. D. Lothrop), White Plains, N.Y.; Viljo Rewell, Helsinki, Finland; Halldor Gunnlogsson and Jorn Nielsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

ALLIED SOCIETIES

South Eastern Society of Architects. Dinner. The Society held a dinner at the Tudor House, Bearsted, near Maidstone, on Friday 25 April 1958. It was attended by the President of the R.I.B.A., Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, M.A., accompanied by the Secretary, Mr. C. D. Spragg, C.B.E., and many distinguished guests including Sir Alfred Bosson, M.P.; the Very Rev. Thomas Crick, Dean of Rochester, and Mrs. Crick; Mr. Gerald Bishop, Clerk to the County Council of Kent, and Mrs. Bishop; the Mayor and Mayoress of Maidstone; Mr. James Adams, County Planning

Officer for Kent, and Mrs. Adams; Mr. R. H. Braybon, representing the Institute of Builders; the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston; the Mayor and Mayoress of Tunbridge Wells; and Mr. R. D. Marten, President of the Croydon and District Law Society, and Mrs. Marten. The company, numbering 183, was received by the President of the Society, Mr. R. Duncan Scott [F] and Mrs. Scott, and the President, R.I.B.A.

Mr. Scott proposed the toast of the R.I.B.A., to which Mr. Cross responded. The toast of the Guests was proposed by Mr. E. T. Ashley Smith [F], County Architect of Kent and Chairman of the Maidstone Chapter, and the Dean of Rochester replied.

This function took the place of the customary annual luncheon. It was followed by a dance and was most capably organised by the local Chapter.

Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. Annual Convention Dinner. At the annual convention dinner of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland held at Largs on Friday 9 May 1958, the President, Mr. Thomas H. Thoms [F], was in the chair. The R.I.B.A. was represented by the President, Mr. Kenneth M. B. Cross, M.A., and the Secretary, Mr. C. D. Spragg, C.B.E.

The toast of the Architectural Profession was proposed by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Thomas Moore, C.B.E., M.P., Hon. F.R.I.A.S. [Hon. A]. Mr. Cross and Mr. Thoms replied. The toast of the Guests was proposed by Mr. J. A. Carrick, F.R.I.A.S. [F], President of the Glasgow Institute of Architects, to which Mr. Spragg responded and Mr. Stuart Clark, F.R.I.A.S. [F], Vice-President of the Glasgow Institute of Architects, proposed the toast of the Chairman.

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Allied Arts Medal Award. The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada has made the 1958 award of its Allied Arts Medal, which is awarded annually for outstanding achievement in the fields of the arts allied to architecture, to Mr. Louis Archambault of Montreal, sculptor.

The Allied Arts Medal will be presented to Mr. Archambault at the R.A.I.C.'s annual assembly to be held in the new Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, on 14 June 1958.

GENERAL NOTES

Leverhulme Scholarship in Architecture, 1958. The Leverhulme Scholarship, tenable at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, value £2,000, which includes payment of fees and maintenance for five years, has been awarded this year to Mr. Colin F. Jackson (Whitehaven Grammar School), 22 Cumberland Road, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumberland.

R.I.B.A. Cricket Club. The standard of play of the Club in the last year or so has improved quite considerably under the captaincy of Mr. C. A. R. Norton [F], but so has that of the club's opponents. Keen young cricketers who also happen to be architects would be welcomed and can be assured of a good game of cricket. Mr. D. L. Robinson [A] is again Hon. Secretary and his address is 29 Chesham Place, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

The matches arranged for this season are as follows: Wednesday 11 June v. *Architectural Association*, at Elstree, Tuesday 17 June v. *London Master Builders' Association*, at Holloway's Ground, Earsfield, Wednesday 9 July v. *Blue Circle C.C.*, at Wimbledon, Wednesday 23 July v. *Vitruvians*, at Elstree, Wednesday 27 August v. *Club Cricket Conference*, at Wimbledon.

Notes
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Notes from the Minutes of the Council

MEETING HELD ON 6 MAY 1958

Appointment of R.I.B.A. Representatives

(a) *East Ham School of Building: Advisory Committee.* H. Martin Lidbetter [F] re-appointed.

(b) *Elmes Testimonial Fund (Liverpool University).* M. G. Gilling [F] in place of Harold A. Dod [F].

(c) *Ipswich Civic College.* (i) *Council for Art.* Birkin Haward [A] re-appointed. (ii) *Council for Building.* Martin J. Slater [F] re-appointed.

(d) *National Buildings Record.* W. Godfrey Allen [F] in place of W. H. Ansell [F], resigned.

(e) *Public Works and Municipal Services Congress: Council.* P. F. Burridge [F] in place of Leonard C. Howitt [F], resigned. (Note: Mr. Burridge is also the R.I.B.A. representative on the Executive Committee of the Congress.)

(f) *University of Nottingham: Court of Governors.* J. Gordon Woollatt [F] in place of R. E. M. Coombes [F], whose term of office has expired.

(g) *Yorkshire Educational Association for the Building Industry: County Advisory Committee on Building.* R. H. Winder [F] in place of Frank Chippindale [F], resigned.

(h) *Codes of Practice Committees and B.S.I. Committees.* (i) GLC/6: *Glass Doors.* O. C. F. Carey [A]. (ii) *Revision of C.P.3, Chapter VIII, Heating and Ventilation and Thermal Insulation.* H. G. Goddard [F].

The Honorary Associateship. Miss B. N. Solly, formerly Secretary of the Architect's Benevolent Society, has accepted the Council's nomination for election as an Honorary Associate.

The Institution of Gas Engineers: Proposed Liaison Committee. At the invitation of the Institution of Gas Engineers, it was agreed to hold informal discussions with a view to setting up liaison machinery for keeping under joint review matters of common interest.

Amendments to Rules of Allied Societies. Formal approval was given to an application for a number of amendments to the rules of the Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire Association of Architects, and also to an adjustment to the boundary between the Northern Architectural Association and the Manchester Society of Architects by which the North Westmorland Rural District, including the town of Appleby, is to be transferred from the Manchester Society to the Northern Architectural Association.

Membership. The following members were elected: as Honorary Fellow 1; as Fellows 11; as Associates 44.

Students. 28 Probationers were elected as Students.

Applications for Election. Applications for election were approved as follows: *Election 8 July 1958:* as Honorary Associate 1; as Fellows 7; as Associates 173.

Applications for Reinstatement. The following applications were approved: as Associates: George Herbert Barton Chantrey, Robert Furneaux Jordan.

Applications for Transfer to Retired Members' Class under Bye-law 15. The following applications were approved: as Retired Associate: William Holden. As Retired Licentiate: John James Birkinshaw, Harold Thomas William Gough.

Obituary. The Secretary reported with regret the death of the following members: Walter Cecil Eaton, C.B. [Hon. A], Ronald Fielding Dodd [F], Haydn Mervyn Rhys Burgess [A], Charles Ritchie Emslie [A], Harold Conybeare Trimmell [Retd. A], Harold Oswald Prestwich [Retd. L].

By resolution of the Council the sympathy and condolences of the Royal Institute have been conveyed to their relatives.

Membership Lists

ELECTION: 6 MAY 1958

The following candidates for membership were elected on 6 May 1958.

AS HON. FELLOW (1)

Macmillan: The Right Hon. Harold, M.P.

AS FELLOWS (11)

Crocker: Montague Ernest [A 1947], Singapore. Ghista: Phiroz Jehangir [A 1952], Patiala, India.

Mackness: Arthur Reginald [A 1932], Bristol. Matthew: Chessor Lille, Dip.Arch.(Abdn.), A.M.T.P.I. [A 1936], Dundee.

Moiret: Peter Paul [A 1957].

Nathaniels: Ray James Holman, Dip.Arch. (The Polytechnic) [A 1944], Nassau, Bahamas. Overall: John Wallace, M.C. and Bar, A.S.T.C. (Arch.) [A 1946], Melbourne, Australia.

Schofield: Harry [A 1948], Corby.

Scott: James Victor Trousdell, Dipl.Arch. (L'pool), Dip.T.P.(Edin.), A.M.T.P.I. [A 1942], Belfast.

Thornton: Peter M., F.R.A.I.C., A.A.Dipl. [A 1939], Vancouver, Canada.

and the following Licentiate who is qualified under Section IV Clause 4(c)(ii) of the Supplemental Charter of 1925:

Walsh: Frederic John, Wareham.

AS ASSOCIATES (44)

Adutt: Stephen George, Aylesbury.

Alaway: Kenneth Harry Merville, Merriott.

Ancill: David John, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield).

Barron: Bryan Morrison, Eastbourne.

Catterall: Peter Damian, B.A.(Arch.) (Manchester), Lytham.

Chalmers: John Alexander, Edinburgh.

Craig: Thomas, Dip.Arch.(Abdn.), Glasgow.

Davis: Peter Charles, Bristol.

Dodd: Gresham Howard, Jordans.

Edwards: Charles Michael, Dip.Arch.(Birm.), Solihull.

Ellis: Ernest John, Ossett.

Field: Gordon Henry, Bromham.

Finn: George James, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield), Corby.

Fish: Hirsh Leon, B.Arch.(C.T.), Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.

Henderson: William Maurice, B.A.(Dublin), Dublin.

Hodgkinson: Philip George, Dip.Arch.(Birm.), Tring.

Ingham: John Keith, Dipl.Arch.(U.C.L.), Lytham St. Annes.

Jackson: William James Campbell, High Pittington.

Jarrett-Yaskey: Joseph Ransford, A.A.Dipl., Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Jayaraman: Mahadeva Iyer, Madras, India.

Kan: Raymond Yat Kum, B.Arch.(Melbourne), Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Kennedy: Daniel Joseph, B.Arch.(N.U.I., Dublin), Tralee, Ireland.

Law: Harry Raffan, Dip.Arch.(Abdn.), Luncarty.

McMahon: Neville, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield), Doncaster.

McNidder: David, D.A.(Glas.), Paisley.

Martin: Peter Gordon, Geelong, Australia.

Mollison: Allan William, B.Arch.(Auck., N.Z.), Invercargill, New Zealand.

Mussett: Geoffrey Rene Henri, Dip.Arch.(The Polytechnic).

Owen: Jeffrey Thomas, Cardiff.

Paterson: Walter Donald, D.A.(Glas.), Glasgow.

Pennoch: Brian, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield), Sheffield.

Ralph: Maurice, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield), Sheffield.

Rose: Andrew Arthur, B.A.(Cantab.), D.A. (Edin.), Edinburgh.

Simpson: Lewis Fordell, B.Arch.(Auck., N.Z.), Invercargill, New Zealand.

Smith: John Samuel, Dip.Arch.(Leics.), Coventry.

Swainston: Francis Bede, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield), Middlesbrough.

Thompson: Bennie Esler, Dip.Arch.(Sheffield), Ballymena, N. Ireland.

Turner: James Robert Sommerville, D.A. (Dundee), Alyth.

Twells-Grosse: (Mrs.) Helen Gillian.

Urwin: Ian, Dip.Arch.(Dunelm), Newcastle upon Tyne.

Walker: William Harry, B.A.(Arch.)(Manchester), Manchester.

Warnock: James Michael, Dip.Arch.(Birm.), Wolverhampton.

Wiles: Richard James, B.Arch.(L'pool), Newcastle, Staffs.

Williams: Desmond James, Dip.Arch.(Manchester), Manchester.

ELECTION: 8 JULY 1958

An election of candidates for membership will take place on 8 July 1958. The names and addresses of the candidates, with the names of their proposers, are herewith published for the information of members. Notice of any objection or any other communication respecting them must be sent to the Secretary, R.I.B.A., not later than Monday 16 June 1958.

The names following the applicant's address are those of his proposers.

AS HON. ASSOCIATE (1)

Solly: (Miss) Beatrice Norbury, 65 Sloane Street, S.W.1. Proposed by the Council.

AS FELLOWS (7)

Charles: Frederick William Bolton, B.Arch. (L'pool) [A 1937], 36 New Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. A. Douglas Jones, Herbert Jackson, Reginald Edmonds.

Harris: John Robert, A.A.Dipl. [A 1949], 38 Queen Anne Street, W.1. Anthony Minoprio, Michael Waterhouse, G. R. Dawbarn.

Johnston: Arthur Robert Court, B.Arch. (L'pool) [A 1950], 13 Castle Street, Carlisle; Ash Tree Cottage, Cumwhinton, Carlisle. J. H. Haughan, Prof. W. B. Edwards, Donald McIntyre.

Matthew: Henry Douglas, M.B.E., M.C., D.A.(Edin.) [A 1948], Midland Bank Chambers, Buckhurst Hill, Essex; 1 Park Hill, Harlow, Essex. R. C. Foster, Basil Spence, Harold Conolly.

Oliver: Charles John [A 1950], 40 Broadway, Maidenhead, Berks; 7 Rochford Way, Taplow, Bucks. Guy North, Laurence Kennard, C. J. Tomkins.

Power: Alan John [A 1948], Midland Bank Chambers, Buckhurst Hill, Essex; 'Bower House', Bower Hill, Epping, Essex. C. D. Andrews, Roff Marsh, R. C. Foster.

Stammers: John Richard, B.A. (Arch.) (Lond.) [A 1941]. The Orchard, Alders Road, Reigate; 4 Yeomans Row, S.W.3. Louis de Soissons, W. G. Allen, Kenneth Peacock.

The name of a school, or schools, after a candidate's name indicates the passing of a recognised course.

Ainley: Brian, (Final), 48 Fremantle Road, Cotham, Bristol, 6. T. J. Lynch, W. J. Reed, A. H. Clarke.

Argent: Kenneth Norman, (Final), 165 Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex. T. E. Scott, C. G. Bath, R. H. Davies.

Arnold: Martin Herbert, (Special Final), 90 Mountview Road, Crouch End, N.4. Allan Johnson, N. E. S. Morris, T. E. Scott.

Ashbourne: Dennis, (Final), 20 Browning Avenue, Warwick. G. R. Barnsley, C. H. Elkins, H. E. Fedeski.

Atkinson: Derrick Stuart, (Final), Mistral, Norris Gardens, Pook Lane, Warblington, Havant, Hants. Applying for nomination by the Council under Bye-law 3(d).

Baker: Eric Charles, (Special Final), 32 Hermitage Walk, Snaresbrook, E.18. T. E. Scott, C. G. Bath, C. G. Kemp.

Bargman: John, (Final), Kent Cottage, Harrow Road East, Dorking, Surrey. F. H. Adie, Frank Risdon, G. M. Aylwin.

Beake: Peter Ralph, (Final), Beaumont House, Mill Lane, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. E. T. A. Smith, R. T. Green, J. L. Berbers.

Beard: Norman William, (Final), 31 Laura Close, Longlevens, Glos. J. M. Scott, H. S. Davis, D. S. Davis.

Bellamy: John Fullwood, (Special Final), 65 Churchill Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex. Harold Greenwood, Basil Hughes, C. H. Fitch.

Bernard: Frank Ronald, (Final), 74 High Street, Hornsey, N.8. G. A. Crockett, R. N. Wakelin, M. de Metz.

Biggs: Frederick Peter Garrard, (Special Final), 73 Five Acres, Northgate, Crawley, Sussex. J. S. Lacey, E. Playne, A. A. Briggs.

Bisley: Patrick, (Final), Messrs. Ellery Anderson, Roiser & Falconer, 16a Long Street, Dursley, Glos. Peter Falconer, H. G. Goddard, J. K. G. Sarjeant.

Blakey: Ronald Barclay, (Final), 108, High Station Road, Falkirk, Scotland. H. Wilson, Walter Underwood, F. R. Wylie.

Buckman: Derek John, (Final), 79 Redston Road, N.8. N. E. S. Morris, T. E. Scott, Allan Johnson.

Caple: Alan John, (Final), 37 Willow Crescent East, Willowbank, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex. D. Nightingale, Arthur Korn, Edwin Rice.

Carter: David John, (Special Final), 5 Clarendon Street, Bedford. S. V. Goodman, W. G. Walmsley, Peter Dunham.

Cawdron: Edward John Hugh, (Final), 4a Crescent Way, Orpington, Kent. E. D. Mills, E. C. Scherrer, J. K. Hicks.

Clapson: Dennis, (Final), The Poplars, Pad-dock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent. E. T. A. Smith, R. T. Green, C. Worthington.

Clark: Sidney Frank, (Final), Kingston, 1 Four Acre Road, Downend, Bristol. B. I. Day, E. H. Button, F. L. Hannam.

Clark: Wilfred Allan, (Final), 3 Lathom Avenue, Morecambe, Lancs. C. E. Pearson, Thomas Duffy, G. N. Hill.

Clink: Joseph John, (Final), The Kataklink, Sandy Lane, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham. G. F. Thomas, H. W. Stokes, Edwin Watson.

Cobert: Michael Norman, (Final), 18 Oxstalls Lane, Gloucester. E. L. Gale, R. G. Cox, E. A. Day.

Coleman: John Hadley Alan, (Final), Prospect Cottage, Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset. J. H. Jacob, C. G. Toy, L. G. Steer.

Cooper: Dennis, (Special Final), Erehwon, The Sands, nr. Farnham, Surrey. Frank Risdon, B. W. H. Scott, C. E. Westmoreland.

Cooper: William Philip Roydon, (Final), The Old Oxford Inn, West Hendford, Yeovil, Somerset. T. H. B. Burrough, R. M. Torrens, W. R. Cooper.

Coulson: James Clayton, (King's College (University of Durham), Newcastle upon Tyne, Sch. of Arch.) 'Panshanger', 2 Lyndhurst Grove, Low Fell, Gateshead-on-Tyne 9, Co. Durham. Prof. W. B. Edwards, J. H. Napper, F. Fielden.

Cracknell: Owen David, (Special Final), Conesford Cottage, Boxworth, Cambridge. H. C. Boardman, E. W. B. Scott, Arthur Korn.

Cutler: John Derek, (Final), Highgate House, Highgate Road, Walsall, Staffs. A. Douglas Jones, K. A. Lloyd, J. F. R. Gooding.

Davis: Peter Aloy, (Sch. of Tech. Art & Commerce, Oxford: Sch. of Arch.) 5 Chester Road, Northwood, Middlesex. W. A. Guttridge, L. M. Angus, John Ratcliff.

Davis: Thomas William, (Special Final), Hazelcroft, Stonehouse Road, Halstead, Seven-oaks, Kent. A. S. Gray, W. H. Watkins, R. F. Reekie.

Denney: Peter James, (Final), 22 Hunters Hall Road, Dagenham, Essex. Frank Risdon, Frederick Jones, H. M. Lidbetter.

De St. Croix: Michael, (Final), Gate Cottage, Worthing Road, Horsham, Sussex. Applying for nomination by the Council under Bye-Law 3(d).

Dickinson: Frank Edward, (Special Final), 11 Selston Drive, Wollaton Park, Nottingham. R. F. Hutchison, R. W. Cooper, H. H. Dawson.

Dinerman: Alfred William, B.Sc.(Lond.), (Special Final), 15 Perrins Lane, Hampstead, N.W.3. A. B. Waters, T. E. Scott, C. G. Bath.

Dixon: Donald, (Final), 19 Bexley Avenue, Denton Burn, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5. Prof. W. B. Edwards, F. Fielden, J. H. Napper.

Dowse: Keith Elsom, (Final), 93 Swanland Road, Hesse, East Yorks. J. Konrad, G. Davy, Noel Pym.

Draper: Kenneth Wallace, (Final), 6, Burgh Heath Road, Epsom, Surrey. Frank Rutter, E. C. Kent, G. R. Dawbarn.

Dunaway: James Henry, (Special Final), 5 Forest Close, Baughurst, Basingstoke, Hants. W. J. Reed, L. H. Parsons, C. J. Kay.

Earle: Jeffrey Henry, (Special Final), 'Meadway', Hillside Road, West Kirby, Cheshire. T. A. Brittain, Donald Bradshaw, J. A. Haddy.

Evelyn: Kenneth Carlyle Murray, (Special Final), 224 South Lambeth Road, W.8. Paul Nightingale, Arthur Korn, Edwin Rice.

Feldstein: Bernard, (Final), 33 Classic Mansions, Tudor Grove, Well Street, E.9. Paul Nightingale, Arthur Korn, H. H. Powell.

Fijałkowski: Boleslaw W., (Final), 86 Norfolk House Road, S.W.16. Frank Rutter, G. R. Dawbarn, Eric Lyons.

Fleming: Peter, (Special Final), Fern House, West Ashling, nr. Chichester, Sussex. Harry Sherwood, S. H. J. Roth, Macleod Wallace.

Floydd: John David, (Final), 6 Market Hill, Huntingdon. J. E. Jackson, T. H. Longstaff, E. B. Parkinson.

Ford: Bernard Andrew, (Final), 12 Vaughan Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex. J. M. Austin-Smith, E. D. Mills, Frank Risdon.

Ford: Terence Edward, (Final), 28 Sherbourne Street, St. George, Bristol, 5. Kenneth Nealon, A. H. Clarke, T. J. Lynch.

Fox: John, (Special Final), 1 Orchard Head Lane, Nevison's Leap, Pontefract. A. W. Glover, F. Chippindale, D. A. Fowler.

Frankcombe: Brian Howard, (Final), 251 Croydon Road, Wallington, Surrey. Applying for nomination by the Council under Bye-law 3(d).

Franks: Ronald, Dip.Arch.(Birm.), (Birmingham Sch. of Arch.), 2 Steeles Studios, Haver-

stock Hill, Hampstead, N.W.3. Brigadier Gerald Shenstone, Richard Sheppard, G. G. Shenstone.

Fyson: Graham Dale, Dip.Arch. (The Polytechnic), (The Poly. Regent Street, London: Sch. of Arch.), 34 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey. F. G. A. Hall, J. S. Walkden, H. R. Steele.

Gaskin: Peter, B.Arch.(L'pool), (Liverpool Sch. of Arch., Univ. of Liverpool), Flat 6, 'Dry Grange', Allerton Road, Liverpool, 18. Prof. R. Gardner-Medwin, B. A. Miller, Bertram Ashworth.

Gibson: Kenneth Roy, (Final), 329 Nottingham Road, Derby. S. Morrison, G. I. Larkin, E. H. Ashburner.

Gibson: Thomas, (Final), 6 Well Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire. Prof. W. J. Smith, W. A. P. Jack, G. W. Robertson.

Grandridge: Thomas Reginald Wilson, (Special Final), City Architect's Department, 8 St. Leonard's Place, York. E. Firth, G. Robson, D. A. Fowler.

Graneli: Remo, Dip.Arch.(Birm.), (Birmingham Sch. of Arch.), 80 Woodland Road, Northfield, Birmingham, 31. A. Douglas Jones, A. G. Sheppard Fidler, J. Sheridan-Shedden.

Gray: Thomas Maxwell, D.A.(Glas.), (Glasgow Sch. of Arch.), 39 Upper Captain Street, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Prof. W. J. Smith, A. D. Cordiner, F. W. Honeywell.

Greene: Keith Alfred, (Final), 9 Hillside Grove, Mill Hill, N.W.7. E. C. Scherrer, J. K. Hicks, Peter Dunham.

Greenwell: Alan Robert, (Final), 2 Grasmere Avenue, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, 6. Prof. W. B. Edwards, J. H. Napper, F. Fielden.

Gurney: Arnold Ernest, (Final), 34 Brooklands Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28. M. A. H. Hobbiss, A. R. Young, A. Douglas Jones.

Haigh: Brian, (Final), 'Ingledene', 16 Sunny Bank Road, Edgerton, Huddersfield. Norman Culley, E. A. Johnson, S. M. Richmond.

Hall: (Miss) Rosemary, (Final), Broadwater Cottage, Groombridge, Sussex. Ronald Ward, Victor Wilkins, and applying for nomination by the Council under Bye-law 3(d).

Hardy: Graham Michael, (Final), 128 Milton Road, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent. W. A. Woodland, C. Knapper, J. R. Piggott.

Harrison: John Ferguson, (Special Final), 43 Moyne Park, Gilnahirk, Belfast. Applying for nomination by the Council under Bye-law 3(d).

Hawkes: Stanley Alan, (Final), 122 Chingford Mount Road, Chingford, E.4. Sir Howard Robertson, J. M. Easton, F. L. Preston.

Heaton: John Michael, Dip.Arch.(Manchester), (Victoria Univ., Manchester: Sch. of Arch.), 21 Glencairn Crescent, Edinburgh, 12. C. H. MacKeith, Frank Bradley, John Taylor.

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Jones: George Raymond, (Special Final), 12 Eneurus Road, Wrexham. G. Bellis, H. A. Clark, A. C. Bennett.

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King: Maurice Henry Albert, (Special Final), 22 Macaulay Road, East Ham, E.6. H. H. Powell, Arthur Korn, Edwin Rice.

Knight: Arthur John, (Special Final), 22 Mervyn Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21. A. Douglas Jones, Herbert Jackson, F. Potter.

Knowles: Philip Michael Ward, (Special Final), c/o Messrs. G. Robson & Partner, 11 Lendal, York. G. Robson, E. Firth, A. F. French.

Knowing: Dennis, (Special Final), 108 Springfield Road, Brighton, Sussex. K. E. Black, R. T. Boutall, E. H. Banks.

Knox: Denys Garnett Graham, (Final), 16 Oakley Gardens, Chelsea, S.W.3. A. H. Ley, H. Colbeck, A. L. Luke.

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Loveless: Donald Edward, (Special Final),

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Taylor: Alfred Steele, (Special Final), 53 Victoria Park Road, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. C. Knapper, Clifton Edwards, D. C. Campbell.

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Trowbridge: John Kerley, Dip.Arch.(Leics.) (Leicester Coll. of Art & Tech.: Sch. of Arch.), Rose Mount, Nursling, Southampton. J. J. Hill, J. B. Brandt, Colonel R. F. Gutteridge.

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Webb: Ian Alastair Beament, (Special Final), 111 Stamford Court, Stamford Brook, W.6. Thomas Bilbow, A. V. Elliott, K. J. H. Seymour.

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Woodford: Eric Raymond Reginald, (Special Final), 'Birch Cottage', Wanborough, nr. Guildford, Surrey. K. E. Black, J. R. F. Daviel, Frank Risdon.

Members' Column

This column is reserved for notices of changes of address, partnership and partnerships vacant or wanted, practices for sale or wanted, office accommodation, and personal notices other than of posts wanted as salaried assistants for which the Institute's Employment Register is maintained.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. W. G. Gregory [A] has been elected Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong where he is a Senior Lecturer. He will continue his private practice at 2 University Drive, Hong Kong, where he will be pleased to go on receiving technical literature.

[Note: In the April JOURNAL it was erroneously stated that Mr. Gregory had been appointed Professor of Architecture in the University of Hong Kong. No appointment to the Chair has been made at the time of going to press.]

Mr. Joseph F. Hollis [A] has taken up the post of Architect with the Government of Singapore (Public Works Dept.) and his address is now 188 Mount Pleasant, Singapore, Malaya, to which all trade literature, etc., should be addressed.

Mr. Reginald Pianca [A] has resumed his appointment as Consulting Architect to the Government of the Union of Burma. The address is c/o National Housing, Town and Country Development Board, Box 254, Rangoon, Burma.

PRACTICES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Mr. Lawrence Butterfield [F], having completed his association with Sir Robert Tasker and Partners [L], is now practising on his own account at 4 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.1 (Holborn 0535).

The partnership between **Mr. S. Stockford Careless** [F] and **Mr. Bernard J. Ashwell** [A] has been dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Careless will now practise at Achards, Bath Road, Stroud (Stroud 587), while Mr. Ashwell will remain at 20 High Street, Stroud (Stroud 1482).

Mr. G. Desmond Fairfoot [A], formerly Assistant Editor of the monthly journal ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING, is now practising under the style of **Thompson and Fairfoot**, at 228 Fulham Road, London, S.W.10 (Flaxman 6533), where he will be pleased to receive trade literature.

Mr. Peter S. Key [A] has taken **Mr. James Victor Tyler** and **Mr. Walter Robin Evans** into partnership. The practice will now be continued under the style of **Key, Tyler and Evans** at 4 Premco Buildings, Second Street, P.O. Box 417, Umtali, Southern Rhodesia.

Mr. Raymond Lockyer [A] has relinquished his appointment with the Bracknell Development

Corporation and has been taken into partnership by **Mr. David Freeman** [A]. The practice will continue at Old Bank Chambers, High Street, Bracknell, Berks (Bracknell 1440), under the style of **Freeman and Lockyer**.

Mr. D. George Porter, A.M.T.P.I. [A], and **Mr. Lewis E. Martin** [A] have taken **Mr. Bruce H. Falconer**, Ph.D., B.E., A.M.I.C.E., into partnership. They will continue in the meantime to use the title of **Porter and Martin** and will practise as before at 219 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.1, New Zealand.

Mr. Anthony Selman [A] has commenced practice on his own account. His address is P.O. Box 721, Port of Spain, Trinidad, British West Indies, where he will be pleased to receive trade literature.

Mr. G. L. Taylor [A] has taken **Mr. C. W. L. Windle** [A] into partnership. The title of the firm will remain **Taylor, Knight and Co.**, of Brookmoor House, Grove Road, Moorgate, Rotham.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Messrs. Abbey and Hanson [L/A] have transferred their Shrewsbury branch office to 12 Belmont, Shrewsbury.

Messrs. Adie, Button and Partners [F] have moved to new offices at 7 Carlos Place, London, W.1 (Mayfair 7388).

Miss Elaine Denby [A] has changed her address to 83 Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.7.

Mr. Richard K. German [A] has changed his address to 3 Enmore Gardens, East Sheen, London, S.W.14.

Messrs. Gollins, Melvin, Ward and Partners [F/A] have opened a branch office at 281 Glossop Road, Sheffield (Sheffield 29922).

Mr. A. W. Smith [A] will be the resident technical associate.

Messrs. Healing and Overbury [A], of Rodney Lodge, Rodney Road, Cheltenham, have opened a branch office at 7 Portland Street, Southampton (Southampton 24429), where trade catalogues, etc., may be sent, as well as to Cheltenham.

Mr. S. N. Hewitt [A] has changed his address to 37 The Crescent, Midland Junction, Perth, Western Australia.

Mr. I. H. Imlach [A] has changed his address to c/o Messrs. James Cubitt, Leonard Manasseh and Partners, 7th Floor, Asia Insurance Building, Singapore 1.

Messrs. Moir and Bateman (Incorporating S. Butterworth and Duncan) [F/A], of Prudential Buildings, Rochdale, have opened a branch office at Barnard House, Pembroke, South Wales.

Mr. Anthony M. Page [A] has changed his address to 3 Greenside, Blind Lane, Bourne End, Bucks.

Mr. Donald Christie Small [A] has changed his address to 49 Weymouth Street, London W.1.

Messrs. A. Lloyd Spencer and Partners [F] have moved to 514 Pockets Building, 30 Stanley Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, but their telephone number (Salisbury 21510) and telegraphic address ('Spenceon Salisbury') both remain the same.

Messrs. Willink and Dod [F/A] have now opened an office in Carlisle at 24 Portland Square, Carlisle, Cumberland.

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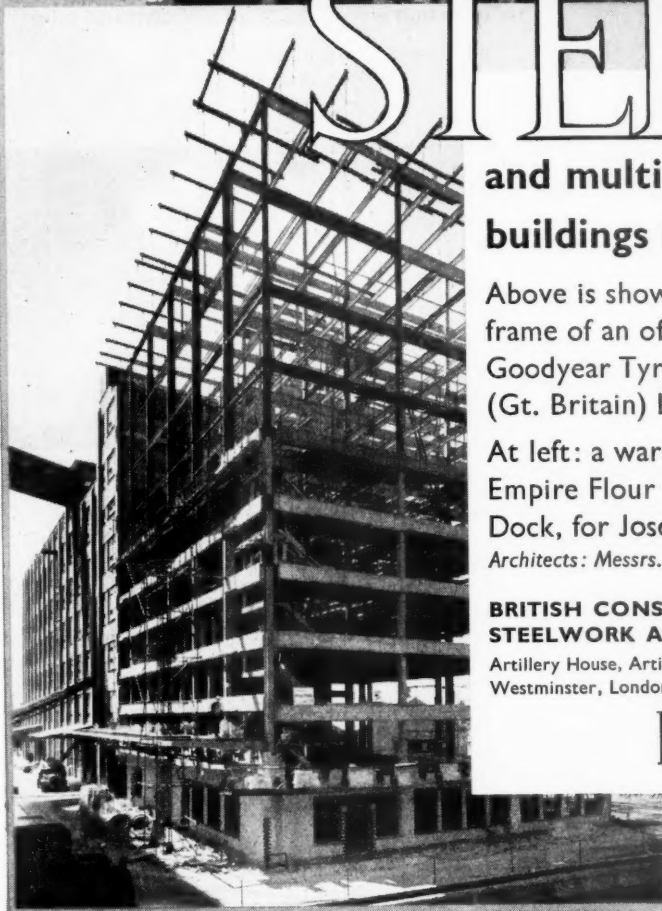
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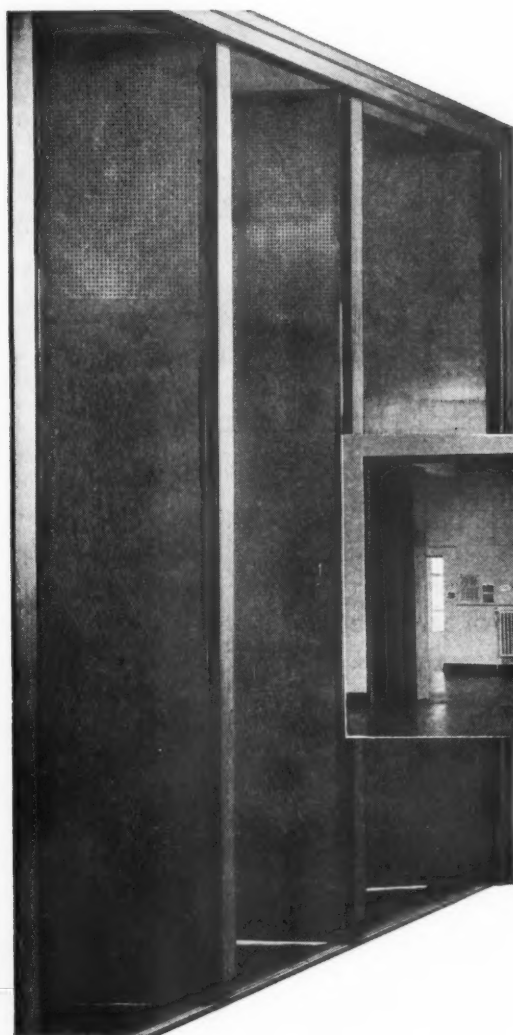
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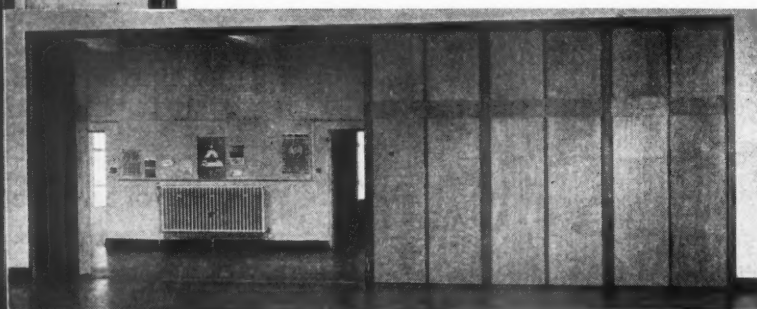
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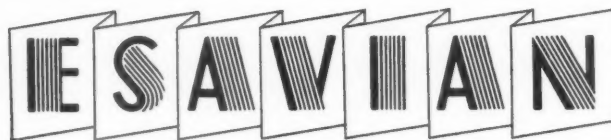


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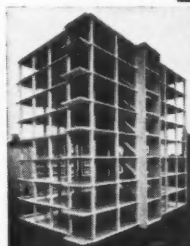
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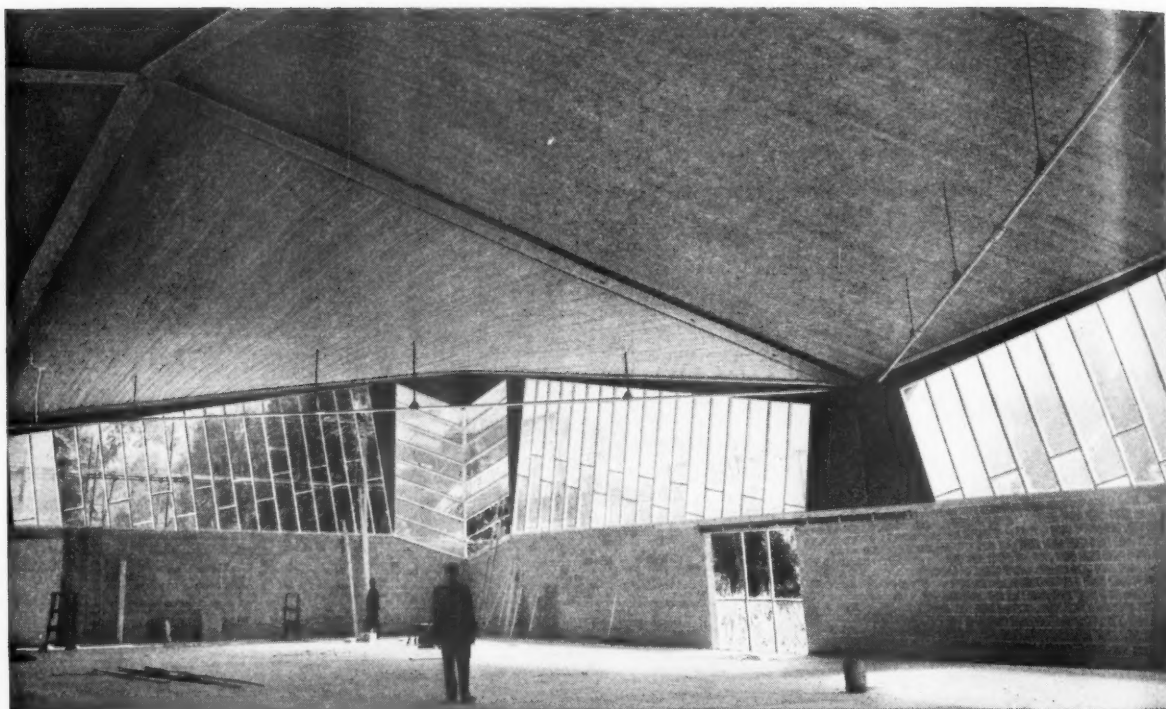
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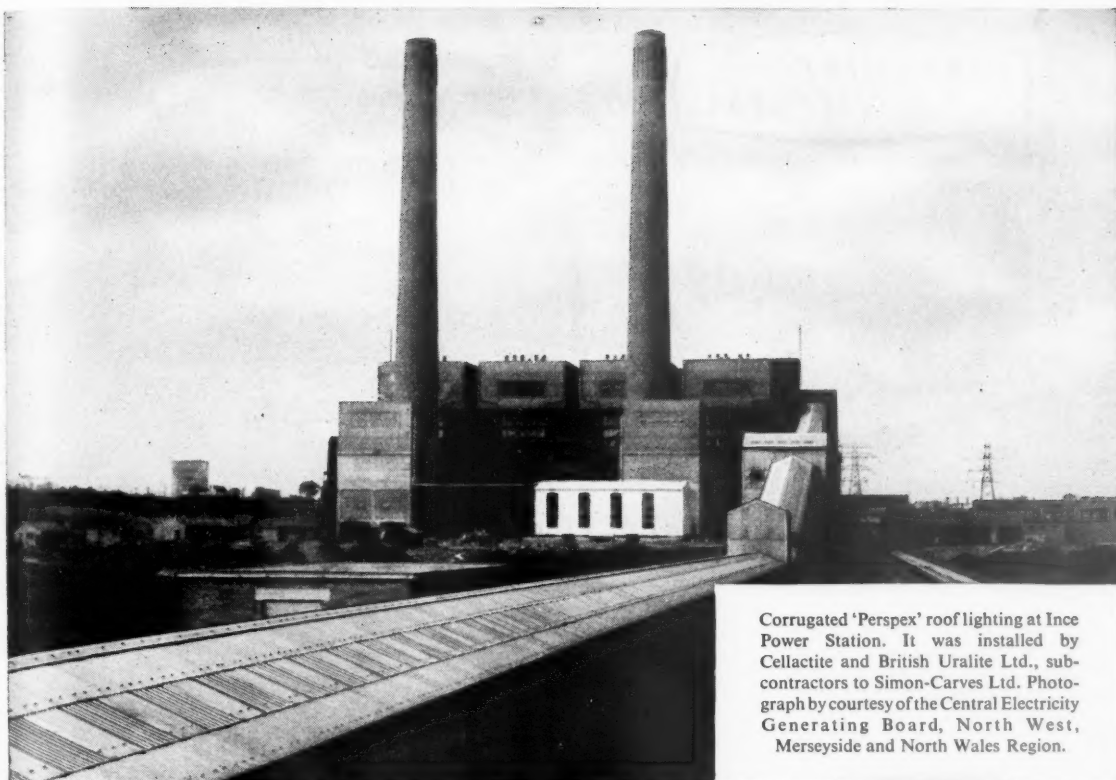
ARCHITECT: Robert Townsend, F.R.I.B.A.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS: Timber Development Association
SIZE: 115' 10" square
HEIGHT: 18' 0" column head
COVERAGE: 13,420 sq. ft.
CONSTRUCTION: Three layers of boarding nailed together

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Corrugated 'Perspex' roof lighting at Ince Power Station. It was installed by Cellactite and British Uralite Ltd., sub-contractors to Simon-Carves Ltd. Photograph by courtesy of the Central Electricity Generating Board, North West, Merseyside and North Wales Region.

Corrugated 'Perspex' makes the most of available daylight at Ince Power Station



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Photographs (left) by courtesy of Messrs. Bakelite Ltd. and (right) installing "Polyorc A" tubes with "Plastronga" Fittings in new houses on the Beeches Estate, Borough of Lowestoft (by courtesy of G. A. M. Gentry, A.M.I.C.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor.)

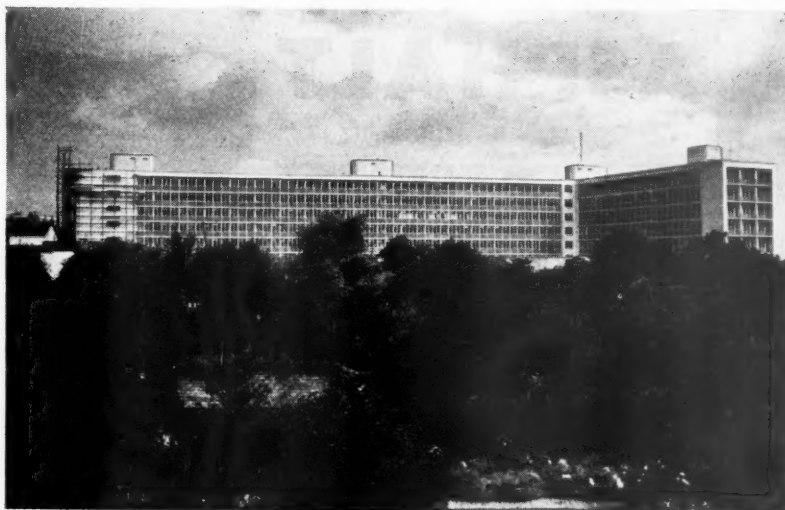
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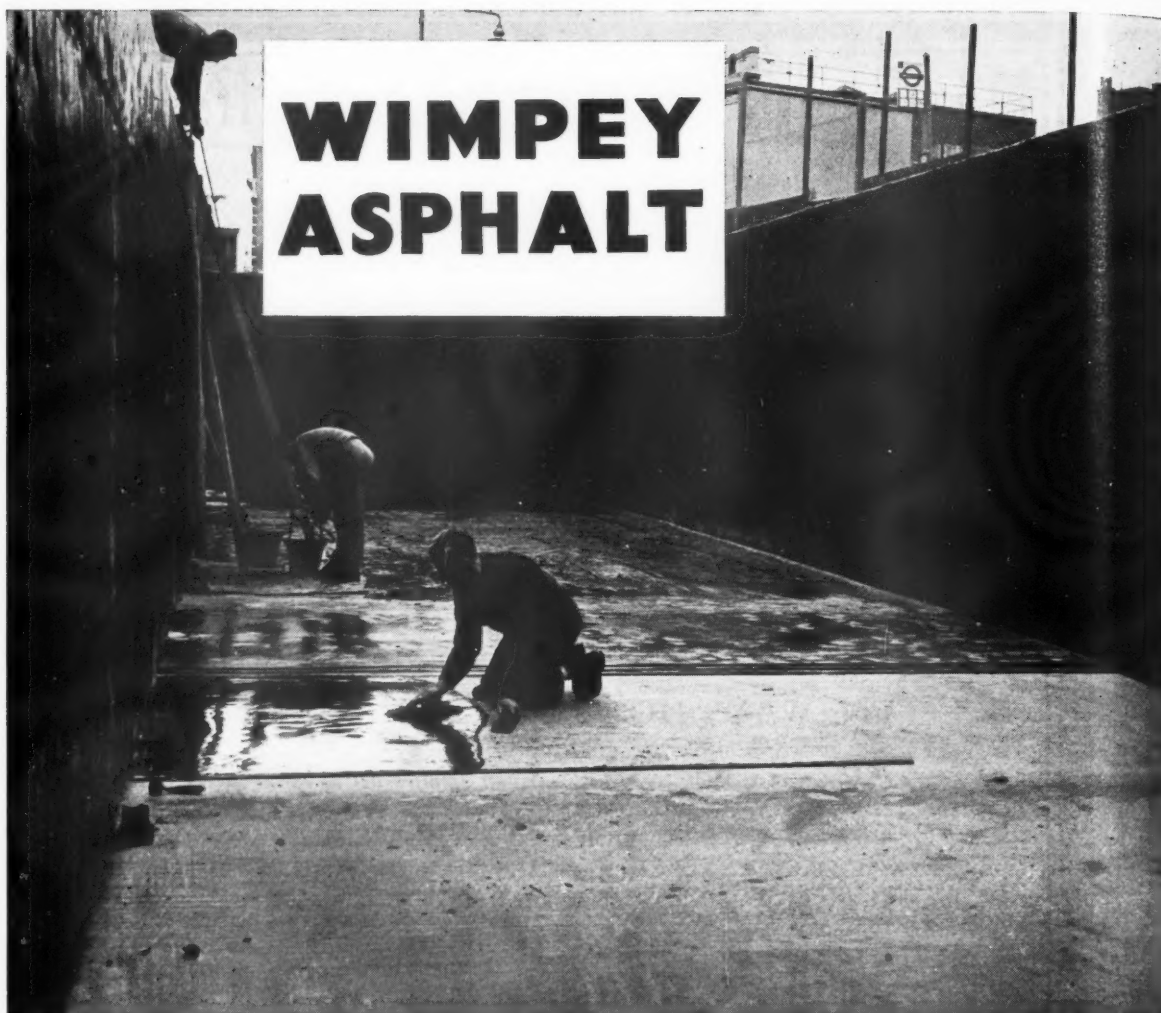
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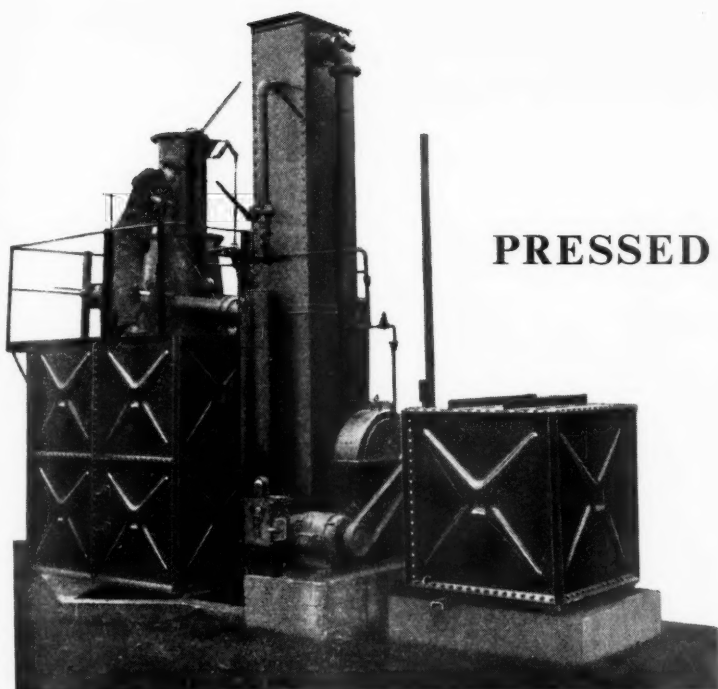
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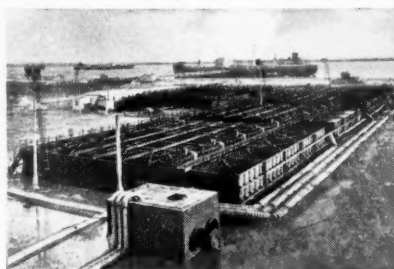
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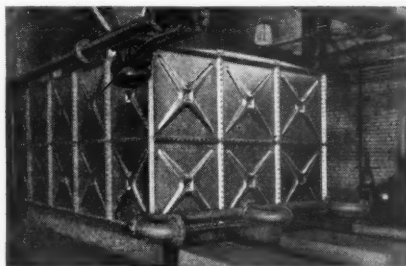
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*Tanks for the separation of oil and sludge
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(Photo courtesy British Petroleum Co. Ltd.)*

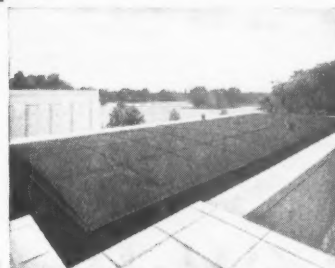


*One of several boiler reserve water tanks
erected inside a power station.
(Photo courtesy Central Electricity Generating Board)*



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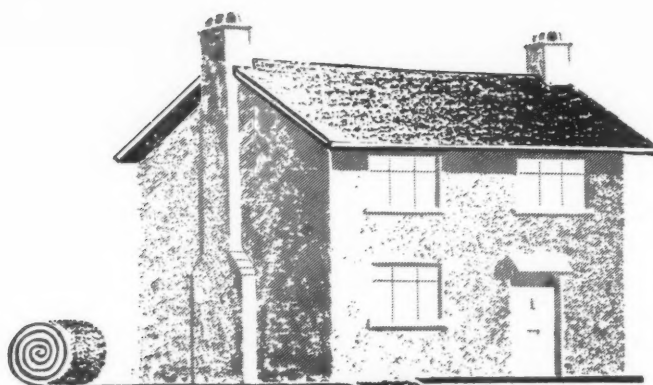
*A covered tank on the roof of
the Clarendon Laboratory (Physics),
Oxford University*



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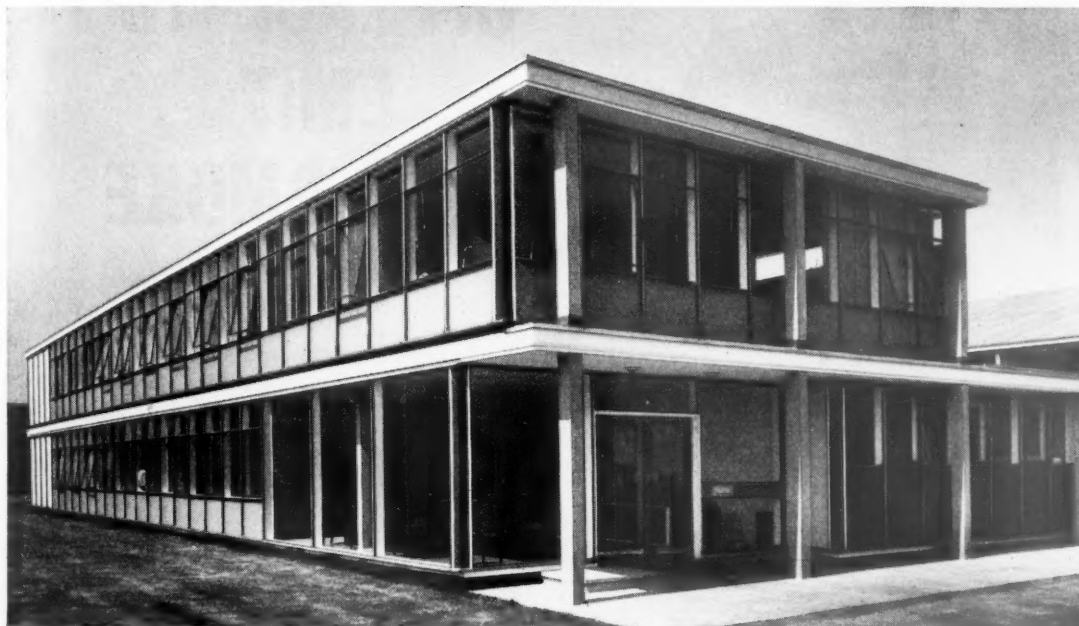
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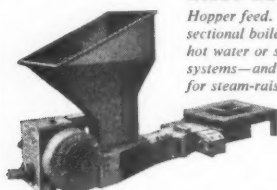
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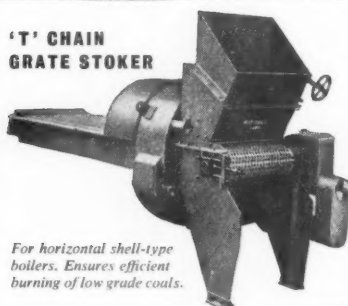
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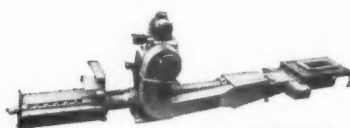
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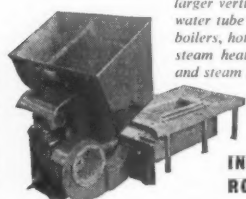
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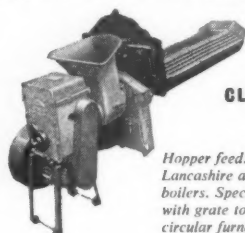
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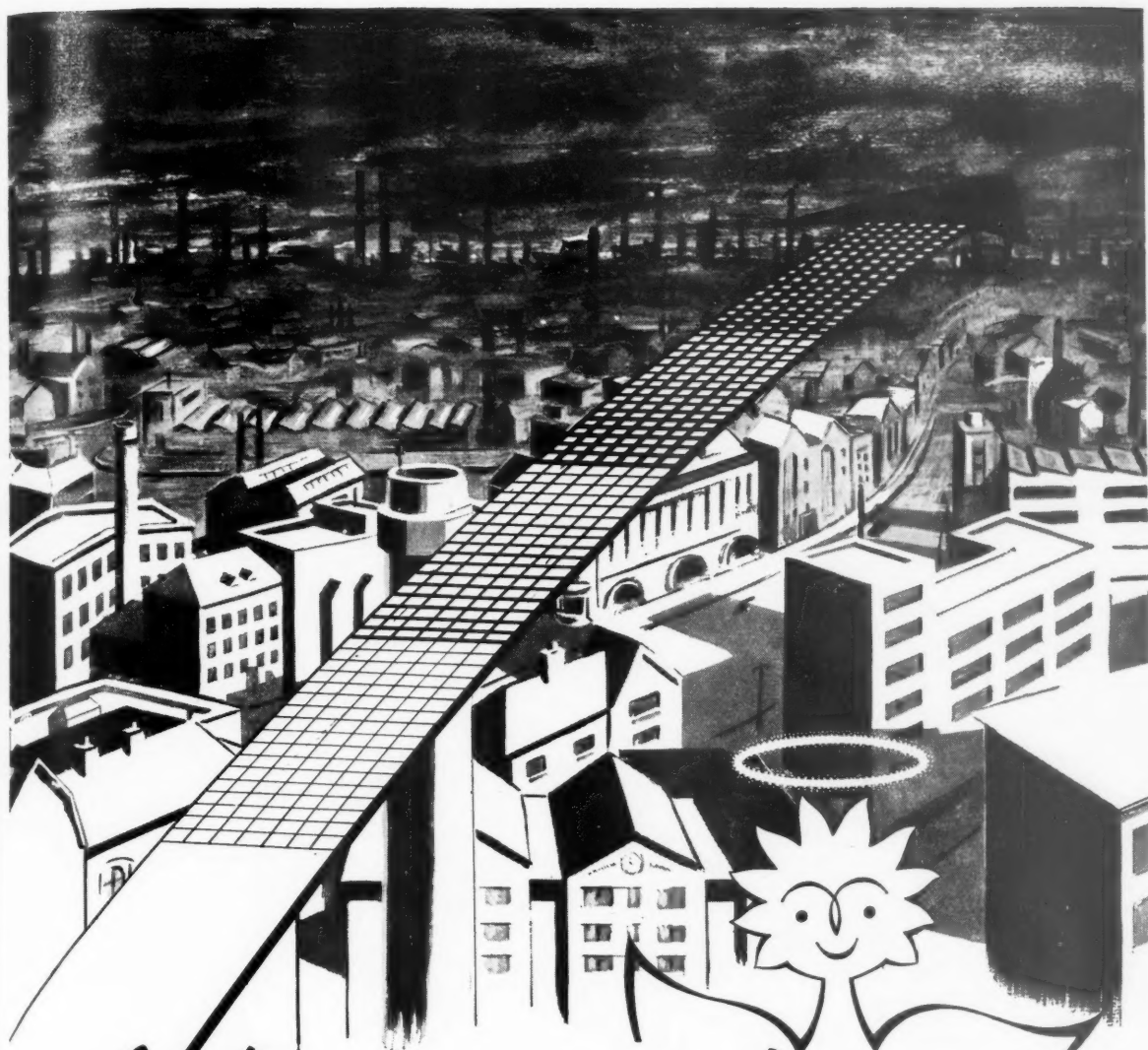
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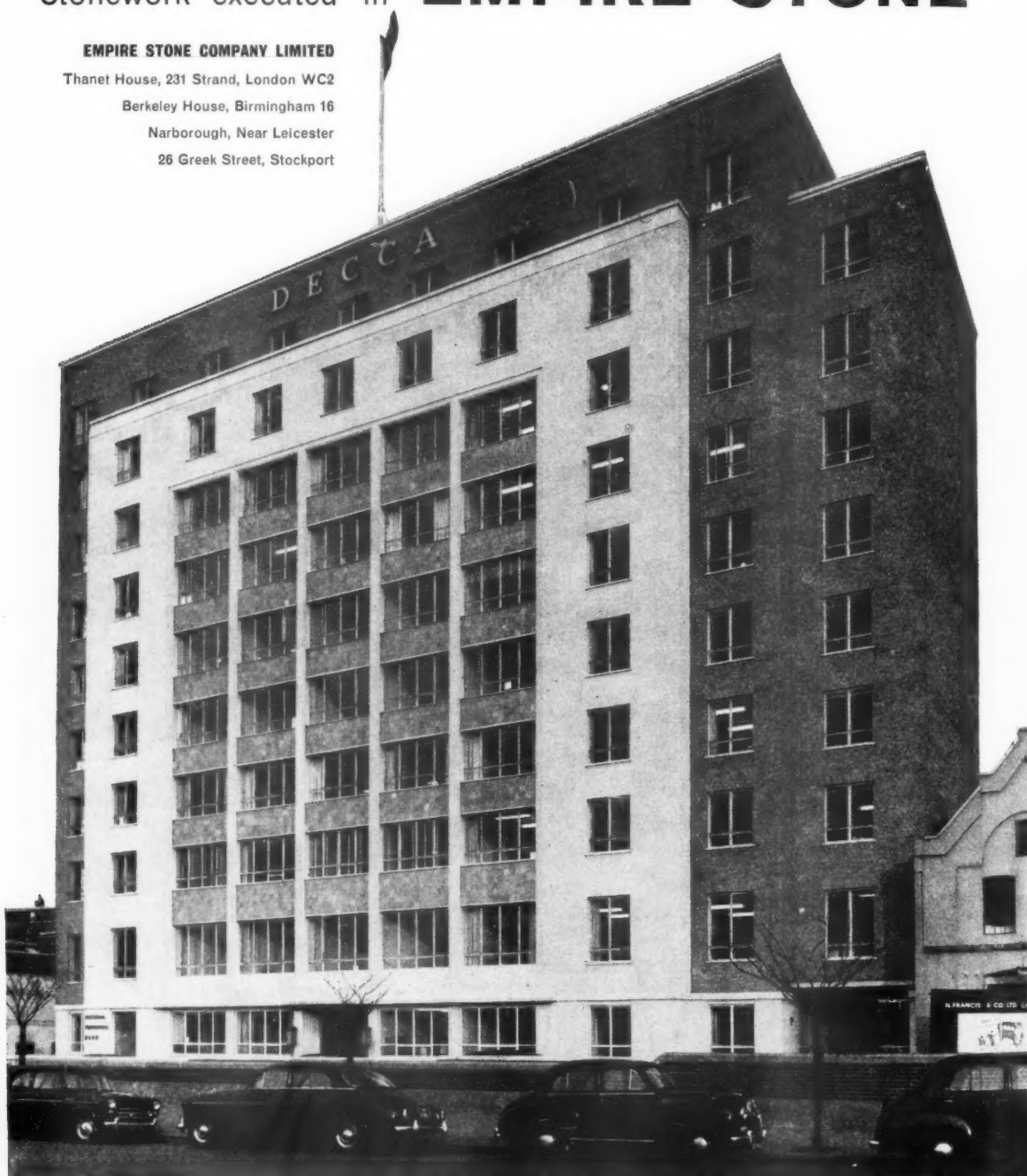
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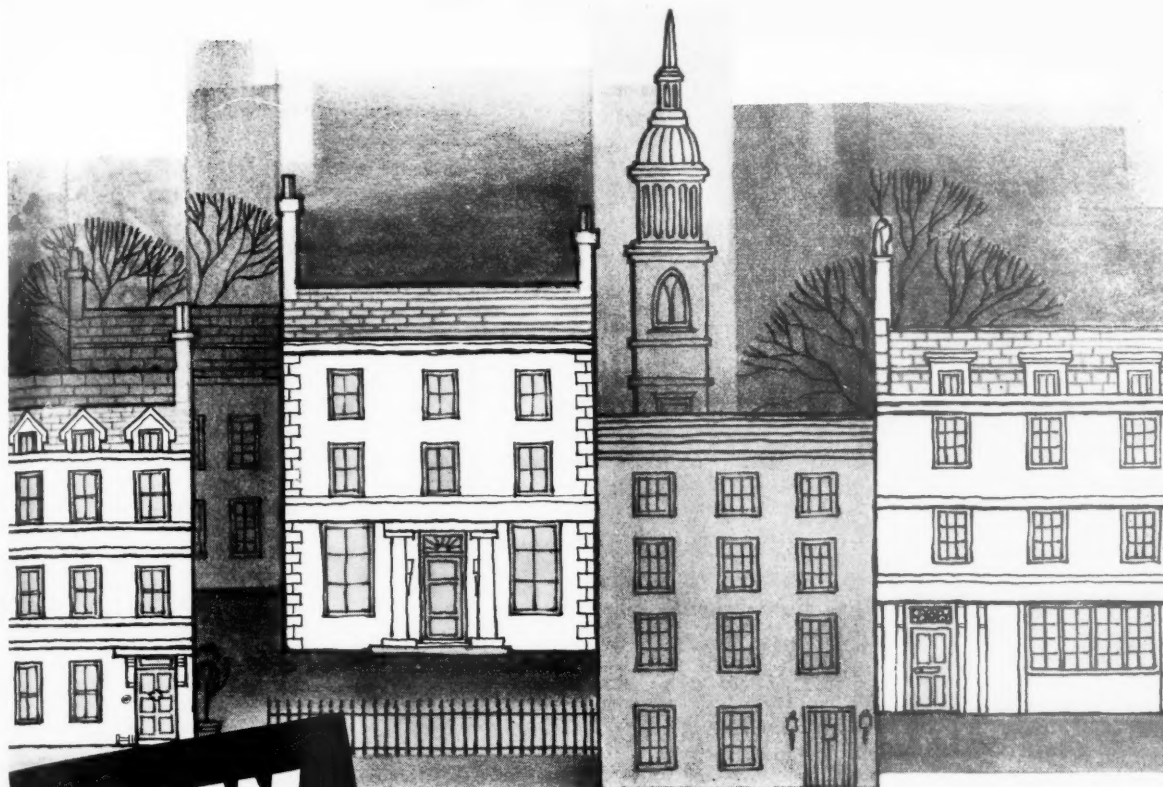
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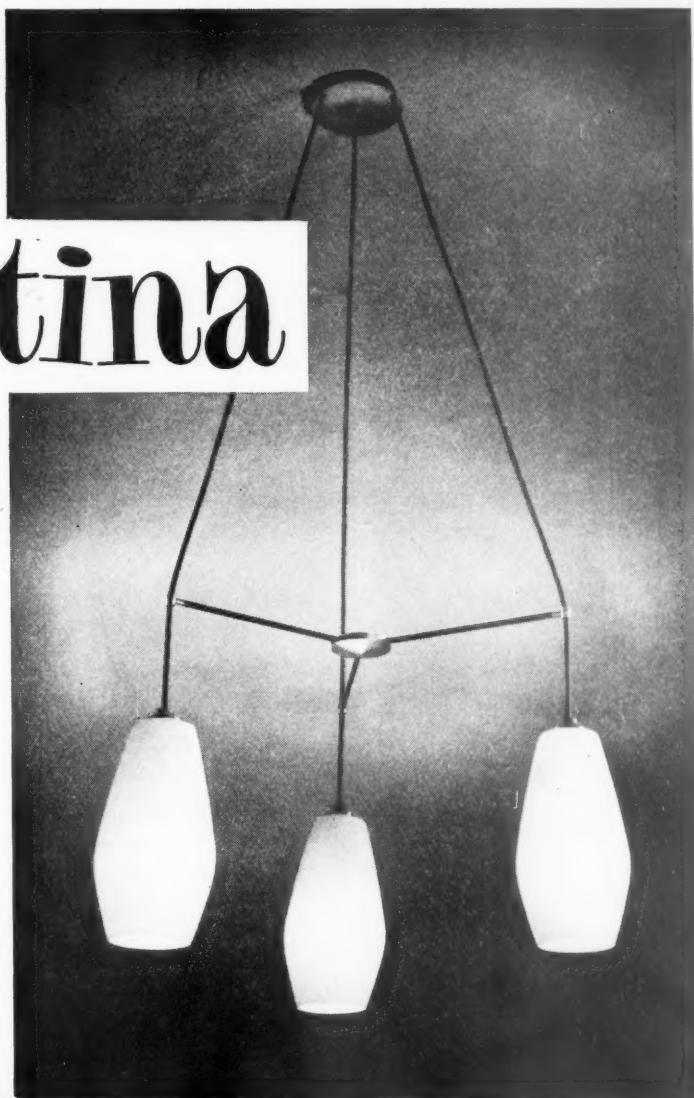
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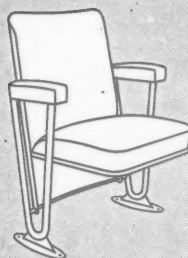


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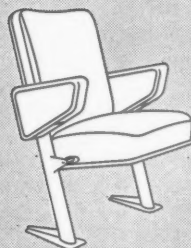
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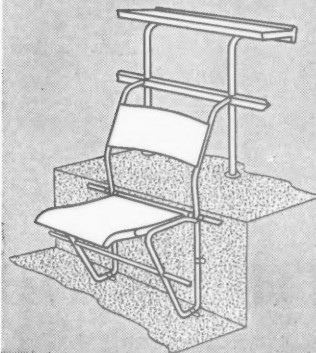
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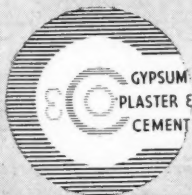
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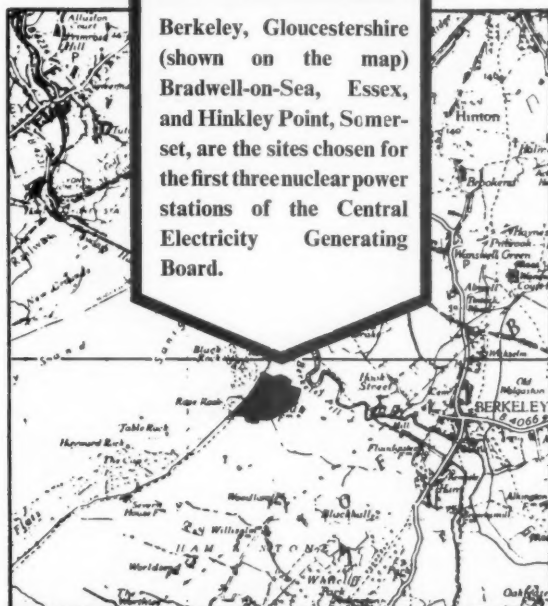
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The growing need for power

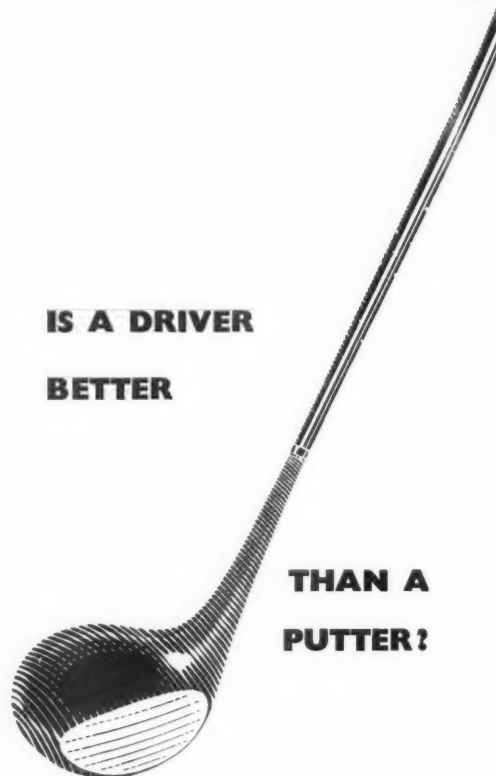
As Britain's industrial efficiency increases, so does the need for power. The demand for power doubles every ten years. The Electricity Supply Industry has already met the doubled demand since 1st April, 1948, and has made provision for a similar expansion in the next decade.

Work on the first two nuclear power stations, at Berkeley in Gloucestershire and Bradwell in Essex, was started in January, 1957, and on the third in England, at Hinkley Point in Somersetshire, last September. These three stations will have an aggregate of some 850,000 kilowatts.

The Government's revised nuclear power station programme provides for enough nuclear power stations to be completed in the next decade to provide 5/6 million kilowatts of generating capacity. Provision is also being made for the construction of new main transmission lines and the extension of the distribution network.

As the demand for power grows, nuclear energy will become more and more important as a source of electric power, upon which the economic future of the country so largely depends.

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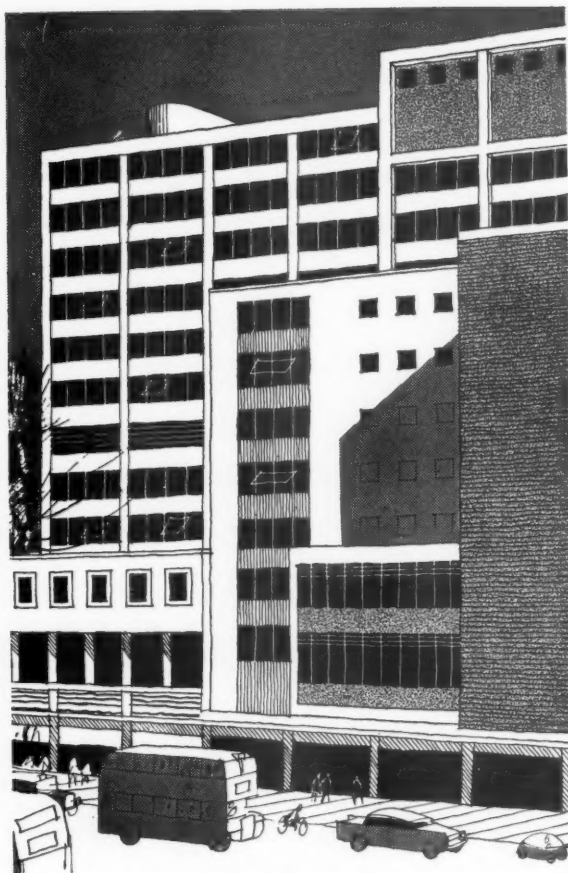
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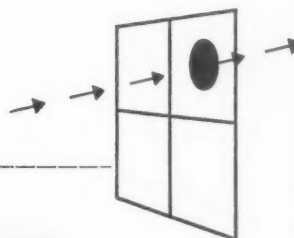


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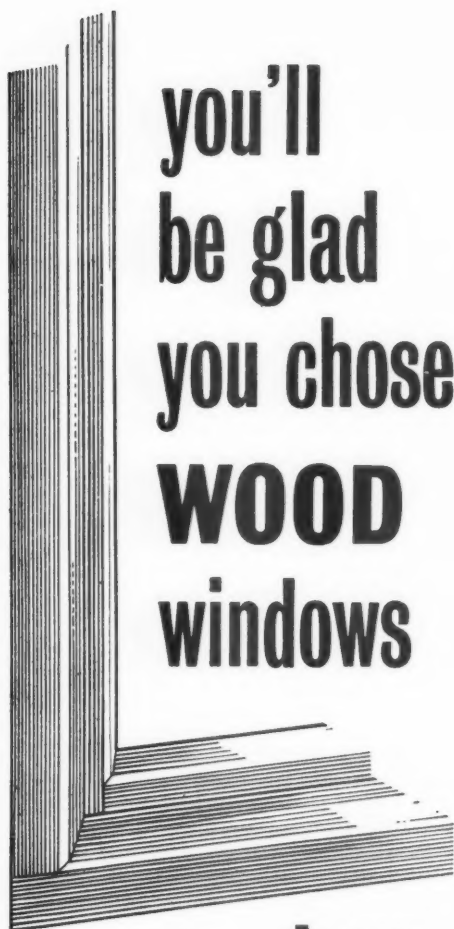
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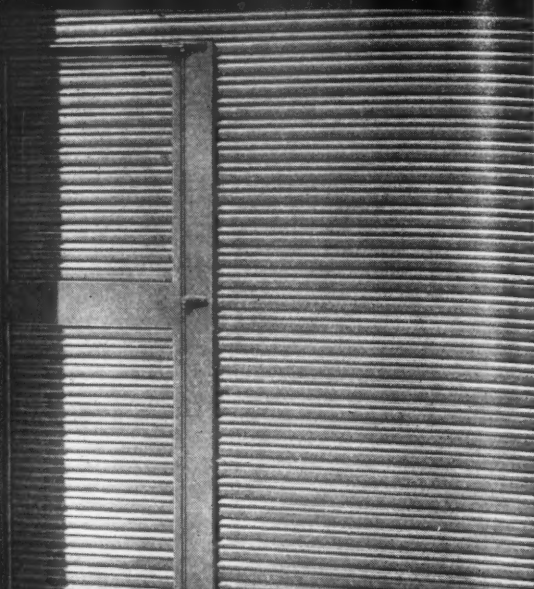
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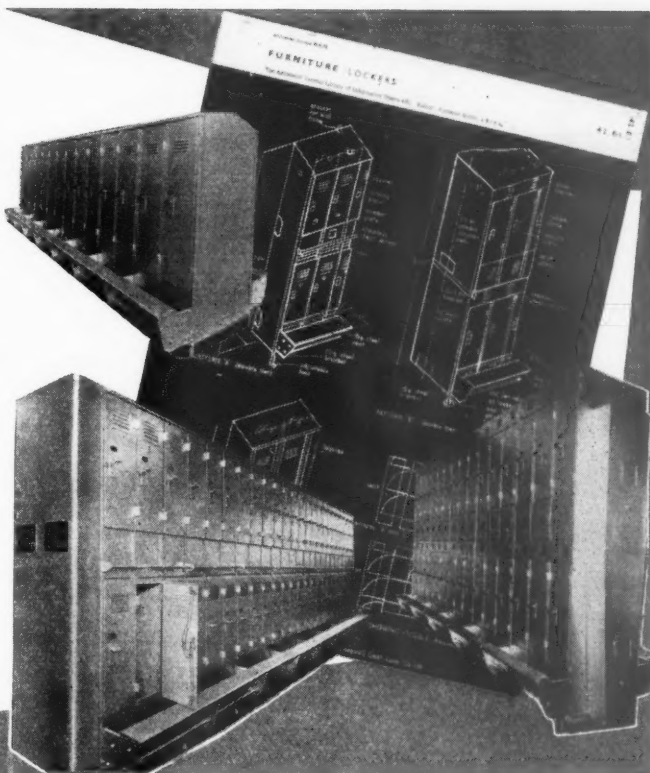
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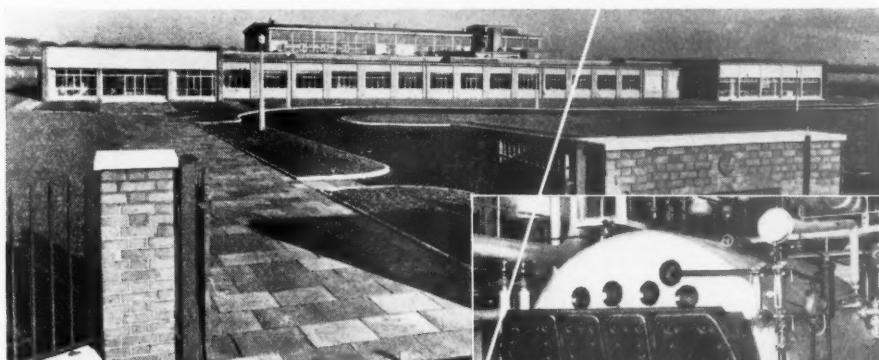
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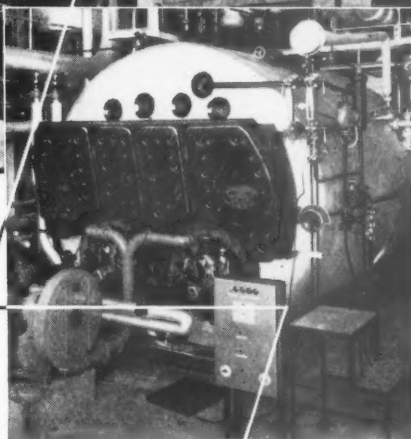
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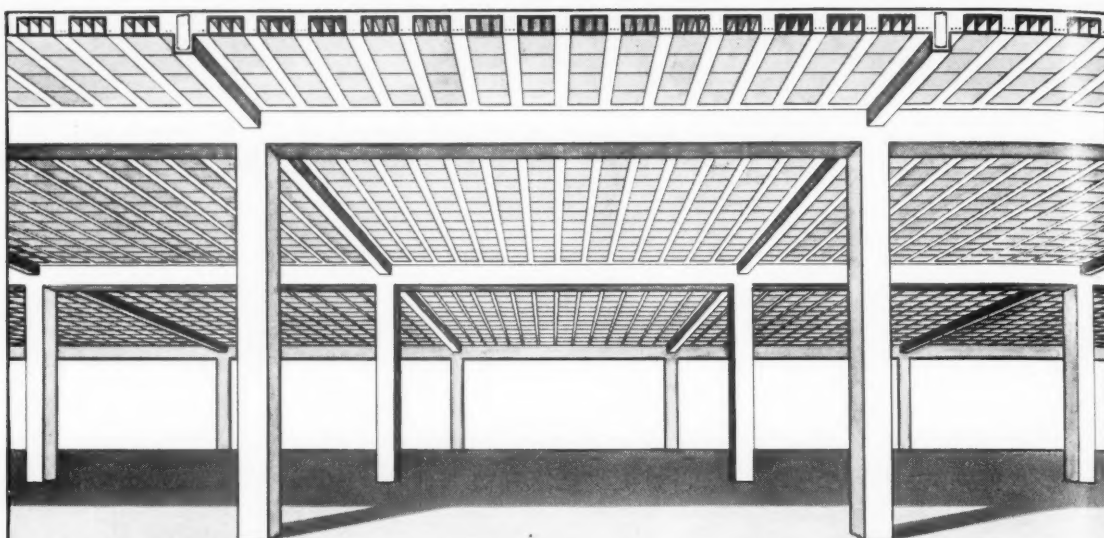
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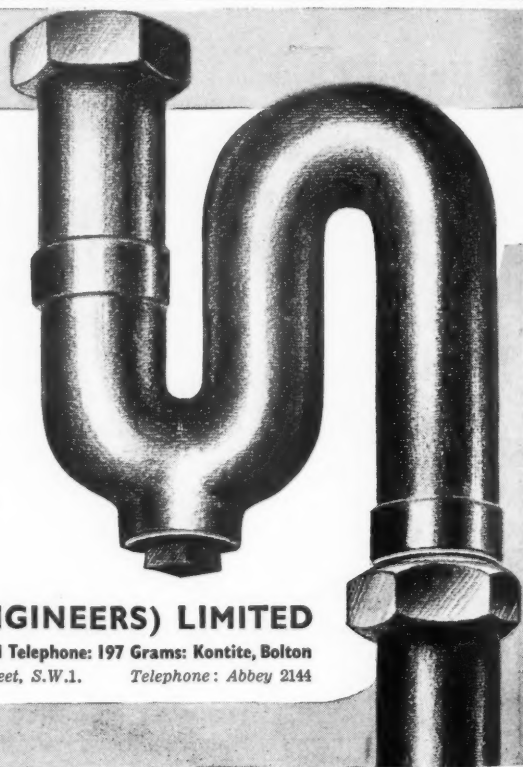
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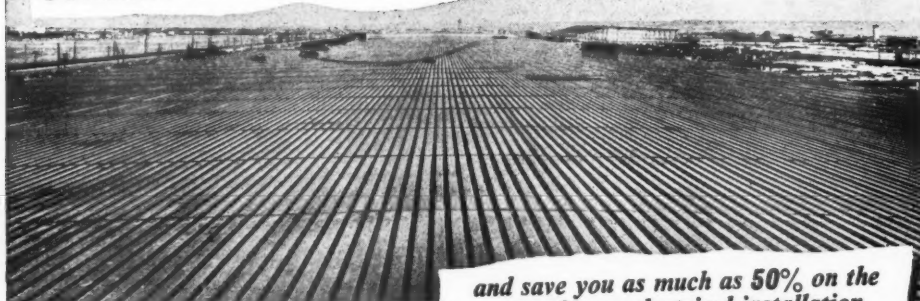
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